

# NATIVITY



# CHRISTMAS EVE

## WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2023  
8PM

### GATHERING

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

What Is This Lovely Fragrance  
The Wexford Carol

Shepherds what is this lovely fragrance, filling the air this wondrous night?  
Gentler than all the flowers of springtime, wafting from heaven in sweet delight.

-French Carol

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon the morn there was a blest Messiah born.

-Irish Carol

#### WELCOME

#### REMEMBERING BETHLEHEM

#### CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
While charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,  
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS WREATH**

May the light of our Christmas candles shine  
in all the forgotten places of the world,  
and on all the forgotten people in the world.  
And may the light of the star of God's love  
bring peace where there is violence,  
hope where there is despair,  
and a new beginning for all creation.

Come, let us worship God!

### **CAROL 133 | STANDING**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

## OPENING PRAYER | STANDING

Though we are slow to make our way to Bethlehem –

**Lord Jesus, be born in us today.**

Though we get distracted on the journey –

**Lord Jesus, be born in us today.**

Though we arrive with cluttered minds and weary hearts –

**Lord Jesus, be born in us today.**

As we kneel before your crib,

with angels and shepherds,

with Mary and Joseph,

with sheep and oxen –

**Lord Jesus, receive our thanks and praise,  
and be born in us today.**

**Amen.**

## CAROL 119 | STANDING

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;

With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!



# WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### CHORAL ANTHEM

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
but there is room and welcome there for me,  
but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
sweet newborn babe, how frail! and in a manger bed:  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how love was born, and burned  
its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
to die, to live, and not alone for me,  
to die, to live, and not alone for me?

### GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. Paul Gilmore



1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
 2. Flocks were sleeping; shep - herds keep - ing vi - gil till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos - pel true.



Swift are wing - ing, an - gels sing ing, no - els ring ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor row, prais - es voicing greet the mor - row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for light in dark places.

We pray for those who are in danger today:

for those who live in war zones;

those who are refugees;

and for those in our armed services.

We pray for light in dark places.

**Lord, bring light.**

We pray for those who are vulnerable today:

for those who will go hungry;

those who will spend these holidays alone;

and those who are estranged from their families.

We pray for light in dark places.

**Lord, bring light.**

We pray for those who are in need today:  
for those who are ill and in pain;  
those facing this Christmas without someone they love;  
and those who dread the coming of morning.

We pray for light in dark places.

**Lord, bring light.**

We pray for our community today:  
for the misunderstandings that separate us for one another;  
the tiredness we feel;  
and the hope we have lost.

We pray for light in dark places.

**Lord, bring light.**

We pray for ourselves and those we love:  
for the things that trouble us;  
the things we long for;  
and the fears we hide.

We pray for light in dark places.

**Lord, bring light.**

We thank you, God,  
for the light of the Christ child in the dark places of our world.  
Help us to shine your light  
and share your peace, love, and hope this Christmastide.  
We ask all this in the name of the One born anew this night,  
Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**



## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST | STANDING

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

# THANKSGIVING

## OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING

Born is the Light of the World

*After the offering is gathered, all stand and sing  
as the bread and juice are brought to the table.*



What\_ can I give him, poor\_ as I am?

If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet

what I can I give him: give\_ him my heart

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE | STANDING



## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING | STANDING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Good and gracious God,

we thank you that

on this holy night your Word became flesh,

heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds,

wise magi followed a mysterious star,

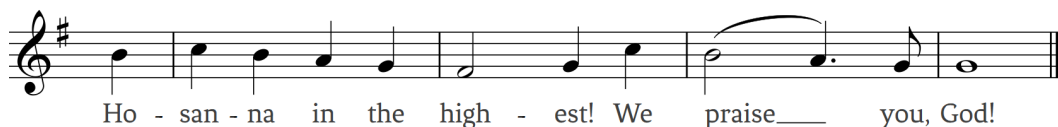
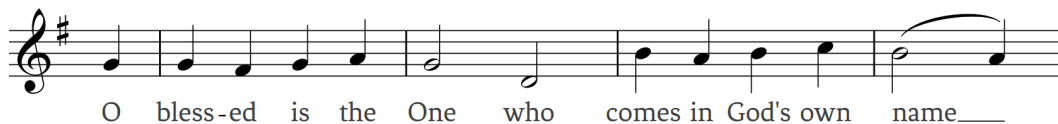
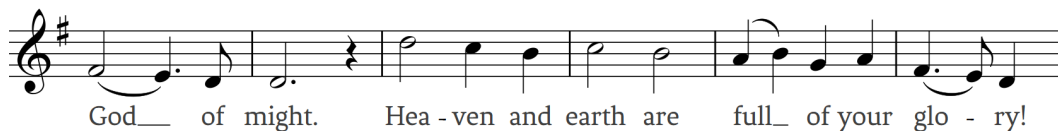
and eternity entered time in Jesus, the child of Bethlehem.

Therefore, joining our voices with the morning stars

who sang at creation,

and the angels and archangels,

we sing ...



Holy One,  
blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,  
whose birth we remember this night,  
and whose coming again we await.  
Remembering the gift of his birth and life,  
his suffering and death,  
his resurrection and ascension,  
we now take this bread and wine,  
and, with thankful hearts,  
offer you the sacrifice of our lives.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the living presence of Christ.  
May we live in his presence  
until the final fulfillment of all things  
when all creation will sing and dance for joy.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, Holy God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table.*

*Please come forward by the center aisle to receive communion.*

*Once you have received, please return by the side aisles,  
placing your cups in the baskets provided.*

The bread of life ... **Thanks be to God or Amen**  
The cup of salvation ... **Thanks be to God or Amen**

## CHORAL COMMUNION SONG

## Christmas Communion Song

Come, faithful, one and all this Christmastide.  
Come to the banquet hall, enter inside.  
This is the feast of love Christ has prepared.  
Holy communion with us is shared.

Celebrate his coming, meditate the cost.  
Look beyond the cradle and behold the cross.  
Drink the cup of joy, eat the bread of life.  
Taste and see the beauty of this holy night.

God clothed in human flesh, Immanuel  
From heaven descended with us to dwell.  
Once clothed in mystery, hidden, concealed,  
Truth in a manger now is revealed.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,  
in gratitude for this holy sacrament,  
we give ourselves to you.  
Lead us out this night to be guided by your light,  
filled with your love,  
feeding a hungry world,  
and sharing your Good News with those we meet.  
We ask all this in the name of Jesus,  
born in wonder for the sake of the world you love.  
Amen.

# SHARING THE LIGHT

## PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## Silent Night, Holy Night



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;



'round you vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our



mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.



## PROLOGUE OF JOHN

John 1

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.  
What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.**

## CAROL 134 | STANDING

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sound joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## CHARGE AND BLESSING | STANDING

## ORGAN POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships

# POINSETTIAS & GREENS



George & Martha Bermingham

*In thanksgiving for our wonderful church*

John & Pat Berwanger

*In memory of Elizabeth & Orrin Barnum and  
Philomela & Jay Berwanger*

Sue & Bill Bringham

*In memory of our parents  
In honor of our children and grandchildren*

From Her Family

*In memory of Maria del Rosario Gutierrez*

Andy & Susan Langan

*In memory of our fathers, Edward A. Langan & Edmon E. Sturgeon*

Lois Klimstra

*In memory of Paul Klimstra*

Mike & Liz Kohler  
*In honor of Peter, Elizabeth & Nicholas*

Tim & Emily Marshall  
*In memory of Joy Marshall*

Bill McNair  
*In memory of Kathy Dale McNair*

Karl Ritz  
*In memory of Jane Ritz*

Jay & Katherine Laabs

Cynthia Rapp

Marj Steiner

Eric & Emily Walker

Tracey Ziener

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

May your heart be lifted this Christmas  
for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy he brings to our lives.  
Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

### FROM THE STAFF

Rev. Paul Gilmore, Geoff Duffy, Nancy Holly, Rev. Phyllis Beattie  
Greg Hartfield, Madeline Weston, Mike Jin



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Information about weekly Bible studies and small groups can be found in your weekly email or at [winnpres.org](http://winnpres.org). Sign up at [winnpres.org](http://winnpres.org) to receive our weekly email.*



### OFFERING

You can financially support the ministry of WPC in one of the following ways:

- Scan this QR code.
- Place your offering in the collection box.
- Give online at [winnpres.org/give-online](http://winnpres.org/give-online).

## THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

### DECEMBER 31: CAROLS AND PETS @ 10AM

Four legs, two legs, or no legs, everyone's welcome at our Children and Pets Carol Service, a fun-filled carol service for all the family. No pet too big, no child too small!

### JANUARY 7: EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Celebrate the conclusion of the Christmas season with the arrival of the magi!

## SERVING TONIGHT

Worship Leaders: Paul Gilmore, Geoff Duffy

Greeters:

Lectors: Barbara Scott, Ward Wilson

Prayer Leader: Ward Wilson

Communion Elements:

Communion Servers: Phyllis Beattie,  
Ward Wilson, Abby Thomsen

Musicians: Daniel Rausch,

Shannon McMullen, Warren Oja

Music reprinted under onelicense.net #A-718077 and  
LicenSing #L22162

## COVER ART

The icon on the cover of the bulletin is by Polist artist, Anna Makac. She paints icons in her own style which she refers to as "modern folk." Her inspirations come from Western Ukraine, Ethiopia, George folk art, and early Italian.

## WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1255 Willow Road | Winnetka, IL 60093 | 847-446-7777 | [office@winnpres.org](mailto:office@winnpres.org) | [www.winnpres.org](http://www.winnpres.org)

Rev. Paul Gilmore, Pastor | [paul@winnpres.org](mailto:paul@winnpres.org)

Geoff Duffy, Director of Music, Associate Director of Worship | [geoff@winnpres.org](mailto:geoff@winnpres.org)

Nancy Holly, Director of Children's Ministry, Youth Coordinator | [nancy@winnpres.org](mailto:nancy@winnpres.org)

Greg Hartfield, Custodian | [greg@winnpres.org](mailto:greg@winnpres.org)

Madeline Weston, Director of Office Management Ministries | [office@winnpres.org](mailto:office@winnpres.org)

Rev. Phyllis Beattie, Parish Associate

