

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**ADVENT**



**FOURTH SUNDAY**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**GATHERING**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

**WELCOME**

**QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Emmanuel, we wait for you  
to fill our spirits and our hopes anew,  
to see your face when morning breaks,  
and with your love our hearts will awake.

Rejoice, rejoice! Ring joyful bells, for he will come, Emmanuel.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

On this final morning of Advent  
we remember Mary,  
who entrusted herself to God's purposes  
with a humble spirit and willing heart.  
With Mary,  
our hearts sing  
leading us on to Bethlehem this evening,  
where our spirits will soar towards the light of eternal love,  
revealed in a newborn baby.  
Come, let us worship God!

## HYMN 140 | STANDING

Once in Royal David's City

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that sometimes  
when we hear the Christmas story,  
we think "that was then", or "that was for them"  
and doesn't have anything to do with us.  
We don't always want to hear your call.  
We don't want you to break into our lives.  
We don't believe you can do it.  
We don't believe you could choose us.  
We pray that we might be more like Mary,  
not hesitating,  
but hearing your voice,  
ready to do what you ask of us.**

*Silence is kept for personal confession.*

**Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though the nights are long, the sun still rises;  
though the mornings are dark, the birds still sing;  
though the world isn't ready, Christ still comes;  
though we don't listen or prepare or deserve,  
God still loves and forgives and renews us.  
Thanks be to God!

## CHORAL RESPONSE

Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame;  
"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For now a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee.  
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Emmanuel, God with us! Gloria!

## WORD

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

O God,  
whose birth draws near,  
we light this candle for the Christ Child,  
tiny and fragile, yet embracing all that is.  
In wonder and joy, we come to the place of your birth  
**Bless us and fill us with your love this season.**  
**Amen.**

## **GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26-38

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

## **SERMON**

“Inherent Treasure”  
Rev. Paul Gilmore

## **HYMN 121 | STANDING**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God of the promise...  
hear our prayer.

## **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 | STANDING**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

# THANKSGIVING

## OFFERING

### OFFERING RESPONSE | STANDING

In the Bleak Midwinter



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

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING | STANDING

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.**

Gracious God,

how can we thank you enough for your Christmas gift to us?

**We thank you for the empty cradle**

**that will soon be filled and overflowing with love;**

**for the joy in our hearts**

**as we wait with baited breath to celebrate the holy birth;**

**for your radiant glory**

**which lights up our darkened world.**

**For all these gifts to us, we give you thanks! Amen.**

# SENDING

HYMN | STANDING

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1. Now the hea - vens start to whis - per, as the veil is  
2. Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to  
3. Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of



grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten  
drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness  
wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance



to the stir - ring, faint with - in: Seed of prom - ise, dee - ply  
shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of  
hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -  
splend - or gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber  
strang - er in the out - cast hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005. Copyright © 2006 GIA Publications. Tune: SUO GAN; Welsh Melody

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION | STANDING

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Information about everything that is going on at WPC can be found in your weekly email.*

*Sign up at [winnpres.org](http://winnpres.org) to receive our email.*



### OFFERING

- Scan this QR code.
- Place your offering in the offering plate.
- Give online at

[winnpres.org/give-online](http://winnpres.org/give-online).

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: 4 AND 8PM

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus tonight with candlelight communion services at 4 and 8pm.

### 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 TODAY

Worship Leaders: Paul Gilmore, Geoff Duffy

Greeters: Nancy Holly

Advent Wreath: Pat and Liz Berwanger

Lectors: Cindy Ritchell, Liz Berwanger

Prayer Leader: Cindy Ritchell

Musicians: Bryan Wlas, Daniel Rausch,  
Shannon McMullen

Sound Technician: Kyle Fox

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Rev. Phyllis Beattie, Parish Associate



# CHRISTMAS



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DEC 24

### FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE @ 4PM

Designed especially for the young at heart.

### CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE @ 8PM

An intimate service of candlelight, Holy Communion, and music

## CAROLS AND PETS

SUNDAY, DEC 31 @ 10AM

A fun-filled carol service for the entire family

## EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JAN 7 @ 10AM

The season comes to a joyful end with the arrival of the magi!

