



JANUARY 7, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE We Three Kings

WELCOME

QUIET MEDITATION

CHORAL INTROIT Noble Magi

Travel through the desert sand, journey to a distant land.

Why so long and why so far, simply guided by a star?

Noble magi worn and wise, looking into midnight skies.

Why so long and why so far, simply guided by a star?

Where do they go?

Caravan of camels cross the desert wild.

Eastern sages lead them on, searching for the child.

Bearing precious treasure, incense, myrrh, and gold;

Honoring the newborn King, prophecy foretold.

Guiding star, it moves no more; stops beside an open door;

Welcoming the wise men three, who worship Christ on bended knee.

And then they go.

Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun; the glory of the Lord is shining on you!

Other nations will be covered by darkness, but on you the light of the Lord will shine.

Nations will be drawn to your light, and kings to the dawning of your new day.

Look around you and see what is happening: your people are gathering to come home!

They bring with them silver and gold to honor the name of the Lord, the holy God of Israel!

Come, let us worship the newborn King!

CAROL 143 | STANDING

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

OPENING PRAYER | STANDING

Though we are slow to see the signs of your presence –

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 you, with Mary and Joseph, with shepherds and magi, with angels and archangels –

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

Amen.

CAROL | 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!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory,

you sent Christ Jesus among us to be the light of the world revealing your love for all people.

We confess that our sins hide the brightness of your glory, and dim the light that should shine through us.

Forgive us for wasting our gifts, ignoring people's cries for justice, and harming the earth you love. In your mercy,

cleanse us and make us new.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE



WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Men Needing Direction Rev. Paul Gilmore



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

CAROL | STANDING

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

THANKSGIVING

CENTSABILITY OFFERING / OFFERING

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



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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.

God, our creator -

for every star in the sky,

we praise you;

for all the different ways you lead us to your Son,

we praise you;

for the dreams you place in our hearts,

we praise you;

for the joy of knowing we are loved,

we praise you.

We praise you, O God,

that in the fullness of time

you sent Jesus to be Immanuel, God-with-us.

At his birth,

the night sky lit up

with heavenly hosts and a shining star,

guiding shepherds and magi to the manger.

Through his teaching and example,

he continued to draw all people

to the light of your love.

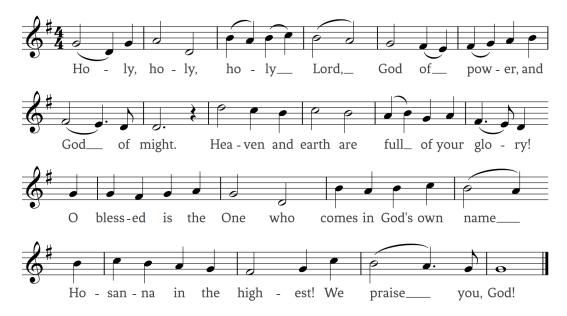
And when the darkness of the cross and grave

threatened to extinguish the light,

he overcame death,

for he is the light of the world, shining still.

And so, with all the heavenly hosts we praise you as we sing...



Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit

upon these gifts of bread and wine,

that the bread we break and the cup we bless

may be a communion of the body and blood of Christ.

In this feast, make us one with you

and with each other.

Fill us with your Spirit,

that we may be united in ministry in every place.

Send us, in your marvelous light,

into the world,

to serve others and work for peace

until that day when we see at last the vision of eternal splendor

for which you have created us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

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**

COMMUNION CAROL

What Child Is This?

What Child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spears, shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Through this holy sacrament, transform us into your body, filled with your Spirit, serving you and our neighbors with great joy.

Amen.

SENDING

CAROL 136 | STANDING

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CHARGE AND BLESSING | STANDING

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information about weekly Bible studies and small groups can be found in your weekly email or at winnpres.org. Sign up at winnpres.org to receive our weekly email.

ROSE ON COMMUNION TABLE

Congratulations to John and Nancy Person on the birth of their granddaughter, Lindsey Harriet Van-Person, born December 30 to Robert and Jennifer Person.



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 plate.
- Give online at winnpres.org/give-online.

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING!

All women are invited to the new Bible study, beginning on January 13 at 10am. Our guide for will be *Into the Light Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. This timely study will help us understand what lament means to us as Christians. For more information, please contact Nancy Holly.

LOOKING FOR NEW READERS

We are always on the lookout for new voices to read scripture and/or lead prayers on Sunday morning. If you're interested, please contact Geoff Duffy.

ARE YOU FRIENDLY?

We need a few more people to join our team of greeters. Our greeters arrive 15 minutes early on Sunday and welcome people as they arrive at our front doors. If you're interested, please contact Geoff Duffy.

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leaders: Paul Gilmore, Geoff Duffy

Greeters: Nancy Holly

Lectors: River and Isaac Lewis

Prayer Leader: Ella Witt

Communion Elements: Annabelle & Ella Witt

Communion Servers: Ward Wilson,

Abby Thomsen, Kathy Fink

Musicians: Daniel Rausch, Kyra Kornfeld,

Shannon McMullen

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

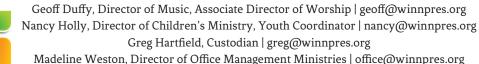
COVER ART

The icon on the cover of the bulletin is by Polist artist, Anna Makac.

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Phyllis Beattie, Parish Associate