



WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

45 West Lockwood Ave. ♦ Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-962-9210 ♦ wgpc.org

Christmas Eve ♦ December 24, 2023 ♦ 9:00 p.m.

Our Mission:
We seek to live Christ's love, welcome all people,
and joyfully serve God.



As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

Gathering for God's Word

PRELUDE

Meditation on "In the Bleak Midwinter"
Meditation on "The First Noel"
Shawn Portell, organ

Paul Fey
Paul Fey

"Rejoice Greatly" (from *Messiah*)
Song Lyu, soloist

G.F. Handel

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

✦ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Linnea Byers and Eliza Thompson

L: We have watched; we have waited . . .
... in hope,
... for peace.
... in joy.
... with love.

L: Now, our redemption draws near!
Glory to God in the highest!

P: Alleluia! Amen!

✦ OPENING HYMN #133

"O Come All Ye Faithful"
(see music in back of bulletin)

ADESTE FIDELES

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Friends, the grace of Christ educates us
so that we can live sensible,
ethical, and godly lives. *Continued >>*

L: On this eve of his birth,
we confess that we struggle to receive him still.

✠ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray:

**P: God of Love Incarnate,
we confess that, with the shepherds,
we are terrified of your glory;
for the glory's light we see plainly
all that is wrong in the world:
how oppression still enslaves;
how garments of war are still stained with blood;
how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety.**

**We also see what is wrong in us:
how passionately we pursue the things of this world,
but forget to ponder the mystery of faith;
how we do not practice the peace you intend
in our relationships, our community,
or even in the church.**

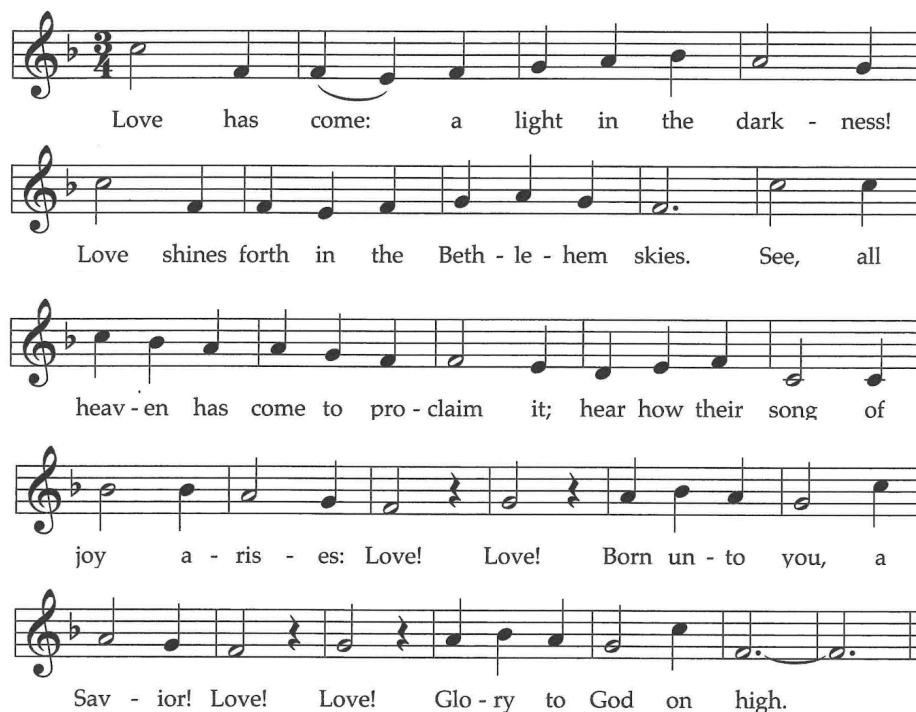
**Forgive us, we pray,
and help us not to be afraid.
Like the shepherds,
we want to follow and find you.
In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.**

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Good news! Great joy!
In Jesus Christ
the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.
Glory to God in heaven,
and on earth, peace.

✠ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
P: And also with you.



Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.

Proclaiming God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brian Tobin

L: Let us pray:

We would make room for you this night of all nights, dear Lord:
 room in our minds and hearts;
 room also in our life together.
 Let your word be born in us anew
 so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 your splendor shines in us and through us.
 in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Pew Bible pg. 638
 Brian Tobin

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Continued >>*

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

Pew Bible pgs. 58-59

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

Responding to God’s Word

OFFERING INVITATION

Brian Tobin

L: Because God so loved the world, God sent the Son into the world.
In response to this good news of great joy, we offer songs of praise,
tithes and offerings, and acts of service.

OFFERTORY

(For those not using the offering plate, your offering can be made
by texting ALMS to 73256 or using the QR code to the right)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"A Great Light"
Chancel Choir

David von Kampen

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

L: A child is born for us in Bethlehem,
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger;

**P: and he will be our Shepherd,
feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: The lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise. *Continued >>*

L: It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You created light out of darkness
and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you.
When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways,
you did not forsake us,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and sent prophets to call us back to your way.

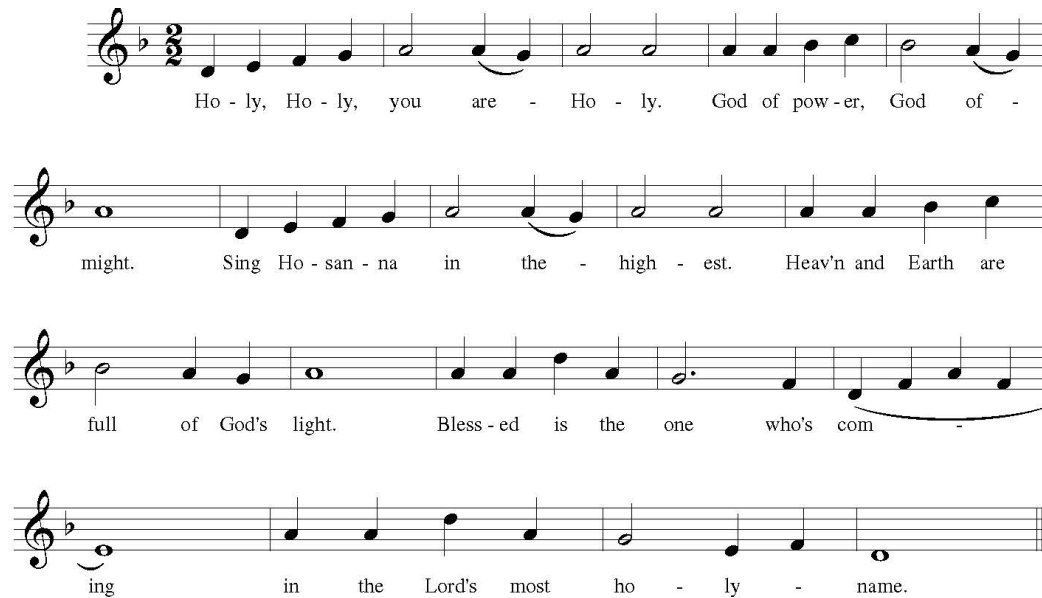
In the fullness of time
you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.

In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity,
became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,
and we beheld your glory, Immanuel! *Continued >>*

L: Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

PICARDY



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, you are - Ho - ly. God of pow - er, God of -
might. Sing Ho - san - na in the - high - est. Heav'n and Earth are
full of God's light. Bless - ed is the one who's com -
ing in the Lord's most ho - ly - name.

L: You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Born in humility,
he came to rule over all.
Helpless as an infant,
he showed the power of your love.
Poor in things of the world,
he brought the wealth of your grace.
Rejected by many,
he welcomed all who sought him.

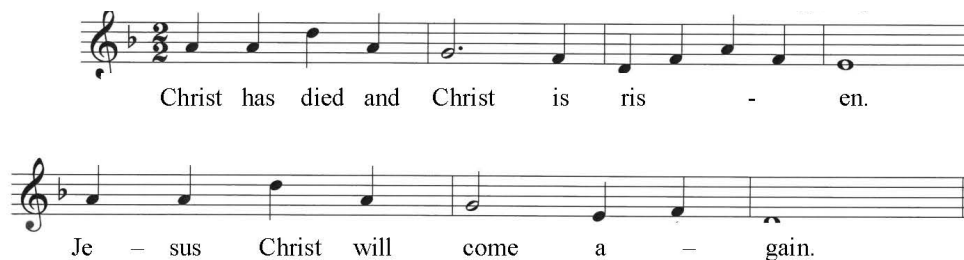
In his dying and rising,
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising
as we await the day of his coming. *Continued >>*

L: With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

PICARDY



L: Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

(JOYS AND CONCERNS)

Empower us by your Spirit, O God,
to be Christ's presence in the world
even as Jesus was God-with-us.
Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice,
and to love with his love.
Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

AMEN

PICARDY



BREAKING OF THE BREAD

L: When Jesus was at table with his disciples
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

In the same way he took and poured the cup,
saying: Take and drink.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table,
we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

"O Holy Night"
Jeff Ballard and Song Lyu, soloists

arr. Marilyn Thompson

CONCLUDING PRAYER

L: Holy and astounding God,
at this table, in this meal,
we have been met by Christ—
the reflection of your glory,
the imprint of your being.
As we go from this place may our lives be a joyful song,
proclaiming the good news
of your righteousness and peace for all the world. **Amen.**

Bearers of the Light

*Please light your candle from your neighbor's lit candle,
then pass the light to the person sitting next to you.*

HYMN #122

"Silent Night"

STILLE NACHT

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:*

Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!" Continued >>

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous start, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

✠ CLOSING HYMN #113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
(see music in back of bulletin)

GLORIA

Sending

✠ CHARGE

L: Go out this night in joy and hope,
with the song of the angels on your lips to tell:
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

✠ BENEDICTION

L: The love of God, the light of Christ,
and the joy of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this holy night and forever.

POSTLUDE

"Ding, Dong Merrily on High"
Shawn Portell, organ

arr. Jeff Parks

*You are welcome to stay for the postlude, especially when we have musical guests.
If you would like to respond at the end, please do so with an "Amen."*

Welcome to WGPC

- **FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please sign the friendship pads located at the end of each pew.
- **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP:** The nursery (designed for children from newborn through three) is open from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. But if you need to step out of the Sanctuary, the new Gathering Spot (formerly the front office) will be open with a comfy place to relax with toys, books, coffee, and a live-stream of the worship service.
- **COMMUNION:** Everyone is invited to participate in Communion including children and the unbaptized.
- **ASSISTIVE DEVICES:** Hearing devices, large print hymnals, and cushions are available. One of our ushers will be happy to assist you.
- **WELCOME BAGS:** If you are a visitor or know someone who might be interested in WGPC, please pick up a red welcome bag at our Welcome Station in the main hallway or at the church entrances.

Those Who Serve Today

Liturgist: Brian Tobin

Greeters: Patty Mabie, Linda McNeely

Ushers: Dan Egley, Deb Grossman, Rebecca and Scott Lyon

Tech Team: Lia Fairbanks, Tom McNeely, Rob Meyer, Spencer Roudebush, Joey Stokes, Dennis Wacker

Nursery Caregiving Team: Anna Stokes, Debbie Goss, Tammy Graning, Carrie Rao

Office Assistance: Leigh Porter



Online Worship: Our worship services are live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website (wgpc.org) and YouTube pages. Children's participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Resources: Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by: Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012; Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2 © 2014; Westminster John Knox Press from Book of Common Worship © 2018.

Ministry Staff

314-962-9210

Pastor: Rev. Edwin Zumwinkel, III (ext. 3201), efz@wgpc.org

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(c) 703-587-5003, jamespoinsett@gmail.com

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(ext. 3105), mam@wgpc.org

Director of Music Ministries: Shawn Portell
(ext. 3211), spp@wgpc.org

Mission Outreach Coordinator: Beth Kazlauskas
(ext. 3208), bok@wgpc.org

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(ext. 3206), jls@wgpc.org

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(ext. 3203), jlk@wgpc.org

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(ext. 3202), baf@wgpc.org

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Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Soucek
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Educational Ministries/Digital Communications:
Cherstin Byers (ext. 3205), chb@wgpc.org

Nursery Caregiver: Anna Stokes

Custodians: (ext. 3212)

Pete Brennan (Supervisor) pjb@wgpc.org
Pierre Campbell
Ken Kastner

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Art Webster,
chq2@fairpoint.net

2023 Christmas Poinsettias



Donor	Dedication
Kristyn Anderson	
Donna Bellows*	
Mike Bohannon*	In memory of Bette Bohannon and in memory of J.T. Breece
Mary Kay Bohn	In memory of Jim Murphy from Mary, Mike and Mary Kay, Chris, Kathleen, and Charlotte
Julie Burchett*	In memory of Dr. Byron A. Barnes and in honor of Enid C. Barnes
Amy Castagno	
Sue Davis*	In memory of Gene and Jane Davis and in memory of Gordon, Barbara, and Peter Melberg
Deni Fuller	In memory of Christopher Thomas Fuller
Mary Kinsley	In memory of Eleanor Joy Booth from Mary and Amanda Joy Kinsely
Vicki Lane	
Vickie Miller*	Celebrating the blessings of family!
Kathy Norvell	In memory of Dororthy and Price Reed
Lynne Rapp	In memory of family members
Julia Ringkamp*	In memory of Charles Eubanks and Joyce Ringkamp
Matt Robinson*	In memory of Noble Robinson and Tom and Mickey Nash
Jamie Scott	
Anna Stokes*	In memory of Clarke Stokes; in honor of MaryJane and Harold Clifton; and in honor of caregivers
Betty Tocco	In memory of Philip Tocco
Kin Watkins*	In memory of Howard and Winnie Watkins and in memory of Bill and Betty Raack

*Indications donation of multiple plants

December 24, 2023 Announcements



The Nursery is closed

for both Christmas Eve services, but the Gathering Spot (former front office) offers a comfy place to step out with children and enjoy a live-stream of the worship service.



**The WGPC offices will be closed
December 25 and 26 and January 1 and 2
for the Christmas and New Year's
holidays.**

FELLOWSHIP

Epiphany Pot Luck Breakfast

Sunday, January 7, 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Start 2024 off right! Join in the fun of an Epiphany Celebration potluck breakfast on Sunday, January 7, before Worship. After enjoying food and fellowship, head to the Sanctuary to celebrate the Magi visiting baby Jesus. Just like the Magi who brought gifts to Jesus, please consider bringing a gift (or donation) for our mission partner Home Sweet Home. New or gently-used utensils are perfect. Your gifts will be our table centerpieces. You can sign up to bring a potluck item by visiting wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links.

MISSION

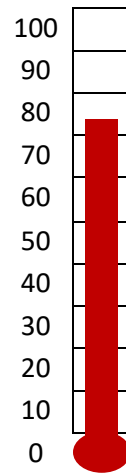
Your Kindness to our Neighbors in Need is Appreciated!



Thank you so much to all who have contributed to the Giving Tree this year! The gifts have all been delivered, and our partner agencies and their clients are very grateful for our support during these challenging times.

If you would still like to make a financial donation, you can do so by check (indicating "Giving Tree" in the memo) or via the church website by **Friday, December 29**. Thank you!

Rooted in Love, Generosity – and Gifts! – Abound



2023 Campaign Goal: \$1,326,793
Raised Thus Far: \$984,753 (74%)
Remaining to Goal: \$342,040



As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, the WGPC Stewardship Commission asks our generous church members to remember Jesus' call for all Christians to use our God-given gifts to help those in need. So far, **our pledges for next year total \$984,753. That's 74 percent of our goal of \$1,326,793.** Church leaders are already at work crafting a budget for 2024 to pay for our staff, our activities, and our missions in line with Jesus' message. We thank all members who have generously pledged and ask those who have yet to pledge to prayerfully consider doing so by year end. Any amount is welcome. You can pledge by mail, by dropping off your pledge card at church, or online.

Thank You for Your Help as We Close our Year-End Records

WGPC is blessed by the generosity of our congregation! Your response and cooperation in submitting gifts and requests for reimbursement quickly, especially at this busy time of the year, is much appreciated and will be invaluable in closing 2023 in the best way possible and getting 2024 off to a wonderful start! May your holidays be blessed.

Give-A-Meal-A-Month December Menu

Help those served by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries by purchasing a bag of menu items and dropping it off in the Mission Hub. The GAMAM December menu is: canned beef stew, canned peas (low or no salt), canned mixed fruit (lite or in juice), box of au gratin potatoes, and hot chocolate. Additional needs: baby food.

Christmas Joy Offering Collection



During December 24 Worship or via online giving

During our Christmas Eve services, we will collect the **Christmas Joy Offering**, a special collection that provides much-needed assistance to PC(USA) church workers and their families. The collection also supports Presbyterian-affiliated schools and colleges serving racial/ethnic groups to help students develop their gifts and find their calling. Envelopes can be found in the pews. Donations can be made by check or online by visiting wgpc.org/give, selecting "PCUSA Special Offering" in the drop-down box, and indicating "Joy Offering" in the memo. Thank you for your generosity!

Calling all Unwanted 2024 Calendars

If you've received a surplus of calendars for the new year that you do not need, bring them the Gathering Spot to share with church members who may need one. There is a place marked on the counter where you can leave them (or help yourself to one)!



Holiday Light Recycling

Now through January 8

There is a bin outside of the Hale Entrance where you can drop your burnt-out bulbs! Let neighbors and friends know and help keep these items out of our landfills.

Help Agape Keep St. Louisans Warm!

Donations of Gloves, Hats, and Scarves

Needed by Friday, January 12

This year's Martin Luther King Day of Service project for our Agape youth is called "Keep St. Louis Warm" and involves collecting gloves, hats, and scarves for people who are unhoused to stay comfortable during our cold winter weather. Agape members will leave these items tied to posts and railings with a note stating: "I am not lost. If you are in need, please take me to keep warm." You can help with this project by donating adult-size mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats. Just place your donation in the bin marked for this purpose in the Mission Hub by Friday, January 12, at the latest. They will be distributed on Sunday, January 14. Thank you for helping our young people serve the community!

DWARP Update



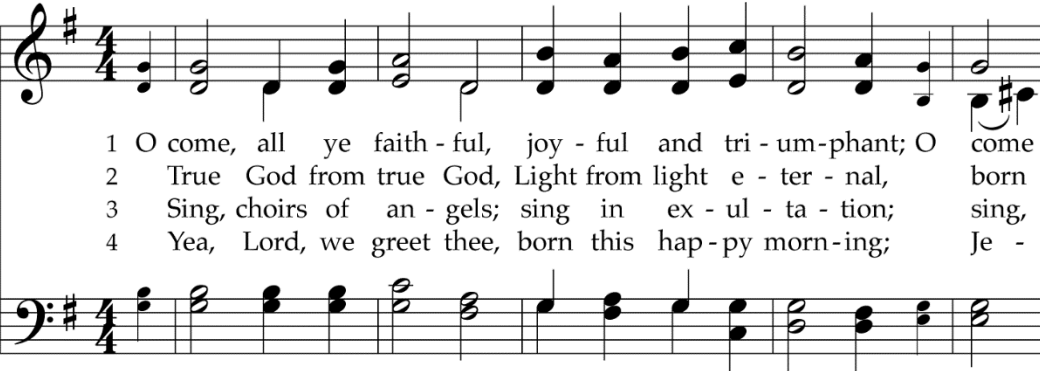
The Dismantling Racism and White Privilege Committee (DRAWP) of the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy hosted a gathering at WGPC on December 9 to share what our congregations in the presbytery are doing to address the Matthew 25 precepts of congregational vitality, racial justice, and the elimination of poverty. An inspiring presentation was made by Rev. Dr. Jessica Williams of the Kairos Center, and each of the eleven churches represented shared how they are supporting these precepts in work ranging from scholarships to educate young Kenyan students to partnerships with many local organizations to address community needs. DRAWP provides opportunities to make friends while identifying and redressing harms done to the predominantly African American churches within our presbytery. More events are being planned. We give thanksgiving for this opportunity and our foundational faith that makes all things possible in Christ Jesus.

FAITH FORMATION


There are no Faith Formation events for adults or youth through January 2, 2023.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133




1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain



born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



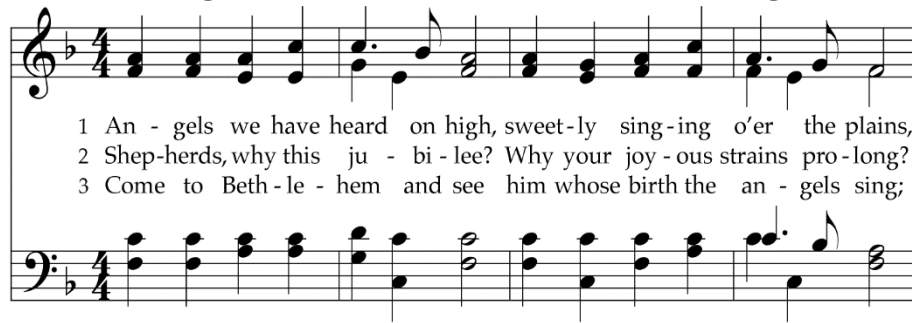
us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

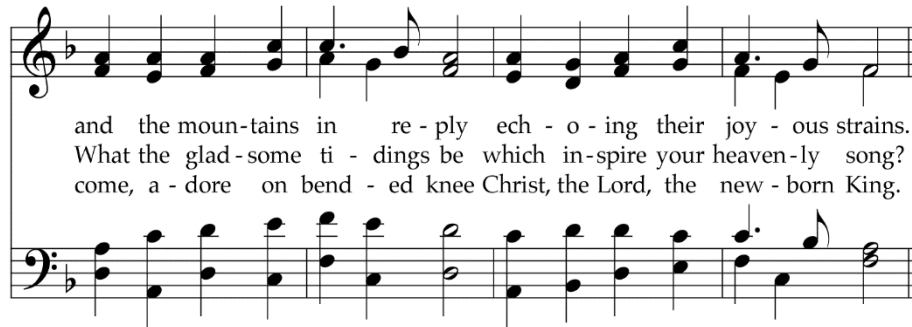
TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular

113 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

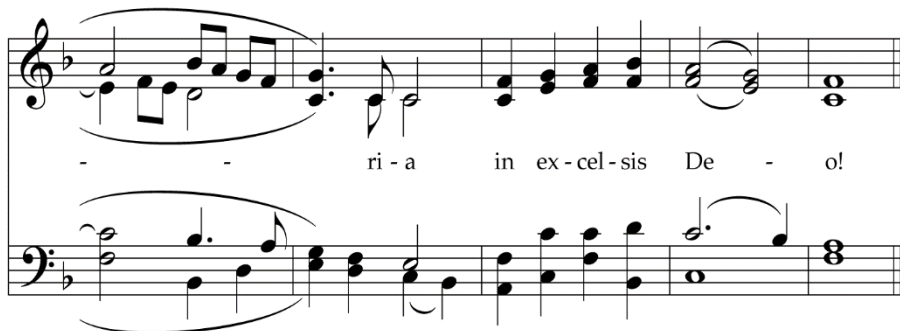
Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.
MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.
(admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

GLORIA
7.7.7.7 with refrain



Merry
CHRISTMAS