



# WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

45 West Lockwood Ave. ♦ Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-962-9210 ♦ wgpc.org

First Sunday of Christmas ♦ December 26, 2021 ♦ 9:30 a.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 "What Child is This?" arr. Chris Brown
- WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE Rev. Ed Zumwinkel
- ♦ CALL TO WORSHIP Deb Grossman
- L: Let us praise the name of the Lord!  
God commanded and we were created.  
Leaders and followers,  
old and young,  
all of God's beloved children,  
all people everywhere as with the angels,  
let us come and praise the exalted name of the Lord.  
Let us worship God.
- ♦ OPENING HYMN #110 "Love Has Come" BRING A TORCH  
(see music in back of bulletin)
- ♦ CALL TO CONFESSION Deb Grossman
- L: In faith and in hope,  
we trust that God is merciful and just  
and receives our prayers with grace.  
In humility and with meekness,  
let us confess our sin together.

LB

✠ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Deb Grossman

L: Let us pray:

**P: Holy God,**

**though we are in awe of the dawn  
of your light in Jesus Christ,  
we remain self-centered and  
cling to the sin of the world.**

**We celebrate the birth of our savior,  
yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him.  
We are called to pursue justice,  
love kindness, and walk humbly with you;  
yet we are content to seek our own comfort  
and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need.  
By the light of the Christ child,  
lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness,  
as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation.**

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

L: We are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

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.**

CAROL SING

---

## Proclaiming God's Word

---

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 2:18-20

Pew Bible pg. 246  
Deb Grossman

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup>He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

## REFLECTION

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

## Responding to God's Word

---

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

L: Sisters and brothers,  
 in Jesus, God's Word became flesh  
 to birth love in our hearts and peace in our world.  
 As we celebrate this gift of life in Christ,  
 let us pray for the church and the world saying,  
 O God of Love,

**P: draw us together in peace.**

L: Let us pray:  
 Your messenger announces peace in shouts of breathless joy;  
 drive out the warring ways of our world  
 and protect all who face danger this day  
 as you guide our feet to travel with the One who is your peace.  
 O God of Love,

**P: draw us together in peace.**

L: Your Word comes with justice to rule the earth with fairness;  
 inspire the leaders of all nations and citizens of the world  
 to order our economic lives  
 to promote dignity and equality for all in your global household.  
 O God of Love,

**P: draw us together in peace.**

L: Mountains and rivers clap and sing  
as your Word makes all things new;  
awaken us to the damage we do to your world  
and mend our ways,  
that all creation might breathe again the liveliness of your blessing.  
O God of Love,

**P: draw us together in peace.**

L: When shepherds met your newborn Christ  
they eagerly ran to tell the news;  
make us joyful messengers of your good news  
who freely share your love in the world.  
O God of Love,

**P: draw us together in peace.**

L: In Jesus, your love takes on human form  
to seek us out and guide us home;  
may Christ be born in us today  
to lead us into the lives for which we were made.  
O God of Love,

**P: draw us together in peace.**

(JOYS AND CONCERNS)

L: From your majesty on high to the lowliness of the stable,  
your Word has power to sustain all things,  
and through him we become your precious children;  
comfort those who are hungry, sick, or suffering,  
and in all our afflictions anoint us with the oil of gladness  
as you visit us with your salvation.  
O God of Love,

**P: draw us together in peace.**

L: Unto us a child is born this day, to live and die and rise again;  
bless all who are born today and all who will die,  
that your will for them may be fulfilled  
in the one who is the way, truth, and life.  
O God of Love,

**P: draw us together in peace.**

L: O God, receive our prayers  
through Christ who is our glorious light.  
May we, like him, shine forth like the sun  
in bodies, breath, and beating hearts  
to sing your praise forevermore,  
and as holy partners in a heavenly calling,  
dwell with you eternally. **Amen.**

OFFERING INVITATION

L: From the fullness of God  
we have all received grace upon grace.  
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Immanuel”  
Jeff Ballard, soloist

Michael Card

CAROL SING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deb Grossman

L: Loving God:  
We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ’s gift for us.  
Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility,  
meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others.  
In his name we pray. **Amen.**

---

**Sending**

---

HYMN #122

“Silent Night”  
*(see music in back of bulletin)*

arr. Chris Barron

*Stanzas 1-3*

CAROL SING

CHARGE

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

L: Go and tell this good news of great joy:  
to us a Savior is born. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

L: The loving kindness of the Lord our God,  
the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior,  
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all. **Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

"Bring a Torch, Jenette Isabella"  
Shawn Portell, organ

arr. Matthew Cord

## Welcome to WGPC

- FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please sign the friendship pads located at the end of each pew.
- CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME: Worship Activity Bags are located at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
- ASSISTIVE DEVICES: Hearing devices, large print hymnals, and cushions are available. One of our ushers will be happy to assist you.

## Worship Notes

### Those Who Serve Today

Greeters: Patty and Grant Mabie

Ushers: Dan Egley, Mike Kearney, and Denise Thomas

Liturgist: Deb Grossman

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

### Chancel Flowers

The large red poinsettias on the Chancel are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, her parents, and her son-in-law, the gift of Edie Curtis.

### Online Worship

Our worship services are live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website ([wgpc.org](http://wgpc.org)) Facebook 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 © 2018



### Ministry Staff

314-962-9210

Pastor: Rev. Edwin Zumwinkel III  
(ext. 3201) [efz@wgpc.org](mailto:efz@wgpc.org)

Theologian in Residence: Rev. Dr. Susan  
Andrews (c) 914-815-6507  
[sra@wgpc.org](mailto:sra@wgpc.org)

Pastoral Assistant: John Rawlings  
(ext. 3203) [jdrtsn@gmail.com](mailto:jdrtsn@gmail.com)

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

Mission Outreach: Beth Kazlauskas  
(ext. 3208) [bok@wgpc.org](mailto:bok@wgpc.org)

Business Administrator: Jan Scheurer  
(ext. 3206) [jls@wgpc.org](mailto:jls@wgpc.org)

Assistant Administrator: Joyce Kimmons  
(ext. 3203) [jlk@wgpc.org](mailto:jlk@wgpc.org)

Senior Staff Assistant: Barbara Fischer  
(ext. 3202) [baf@wgpc.org](mailto:baf@wgpc.org)

Administrative Assistant: Barb Gaugh  
(ext. 3210) [bag@wgpc.org](mailto:bag@wgpc.org)

Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Soucek  
(ext. 3204) [mks@wgpc.org](mailto:mks@wgpc.org)

Educational Ministries/Digital  
Communications: Cherstin Byers  
(ext. 3205) [chb@wgpc.org](mailto:chb@wgpc.org)

Custodians: (ext. 3212)

Pete Brennan (Supervisor)

[pjb@wgpc.org](mailto:pjb@wgpc.org)

Pierre Campbell

Ken Kastner

# Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)  
 F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)  
 C F Dm F C Bb F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)  
 Gm7 A7 Bb C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)  
 F C Bb C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996  
 MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012  
 Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)  
 Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH  
 9.9.10.9.9.8

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

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 yon 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.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;  
 stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.  
 MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818  
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT  
 Irregular

# December 26, 2021 Announcement

## There's Still Time to Help Grant Holiday Wishes Through Our Giving Tree Accepted Through Thursday, December 30



Thanks to all who have supported our Giving Tree program. There is still time to help those in need through a monetary donation. Checks can be made out to WGPC with "Giving Tree" and the name

an agency below on the memo line. Gifts can also be made online by visiting [wgpc.org/give](http://wgpc.org/give) and selecting "Giving Tree" in the drop-down box and noting "Giving Tree" and the preferred agency in the memo box. Our agencies this Christmas season are:

- Beyond Housing
- EnergyCare
- Foster & Adoptive Care Collation
- Home Sweet Home.
- Plan Grande 2 (scholarships for students in Nicaragua)
- Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
- Webster-Rock Hill Ministries
- Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services



## December Menu for Give-A-Meal-A-Month Collected Throughout December

Every month, WGPC members and friends are invited to give a meal to our neighbors in need across St. Louis. Yellow bags for assembling the meals are in the main hallway on the table near the library. The bags can be returned to the pantry cabinet in Fellowship Hall anytime this month. The menu is:

- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Peas – no or low salt
- Canned Mixed Fruit – lite or in fruit juice
- Box of au gratin potatoes
- Hot chocolate
- Additional Needs: baby foods



## 2022 Pledge Reminder

If you have submitted your pledge for 2022 year, we thank you. If you haven't, we are still \$215,843 from our goal. Your contributions are WGPC's primary source of money to pay for our staff and our activities, including church operations and missions. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to help our church



continue to move forward. If you haven't already, please drop off, mail, use our website at [wgpc.org](http://wgpc.org), or scan the QR code to deliver your financial pledge for 2022. Thank you for your generosity!



## Refugee Command Center Presentation Sunday, January 7, 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

As Afghan refugees face a hard landing in St. Louis, nonprofit leaders are forming a Refugee Command Center to coordinate efforts. Join us for a presentation in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 2, at 7:00 p.m. on ways that we, as individuals and the church, can help Afghan refugees in St. Louis. You can also see how Presbyterians around the country are welcoming refugees to their communities by visiting [www.presbyterianmission.org/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/) (search word: refugees).



**WGPC will be closed:**  
Monday, December 27  
Friday, December 31  
Monday, January 3



**The nursery will be closed this Sunday and Sunday, January 2.**

## We Have Welcome Bags!

As you welcome visitors here at church, please share our welcome bags with them. And, if you have a new family in your neighborhood or new friends looking for a church home, please drop one of these bags off with them. Look for the red bags by the Lockwood doors, the parking lot doors, and in the main hall. At the main hall Welcome Station, you'll also find additional information about things going on in the church, so you can customize the welcome bag based on visitors' and new neighbors' interests.



**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS

### Need a WGPC Name Tag?

Please contact Beth Kazlauskas at [bok@wgpc.org](mailto:bok@wgpc.org).

## Prayground Reopens!

WGPC welcomes children of all ages in worship. After consulting with parents of young children, we have decided to reopen the Prayground located at the front of the Sanctuary near the ramp on the right. It contains pillows, drawing paper, and books for young children to quietly enjoy during worship. Since it has been awhile since the Prayground has been open, here is a quick reminder of our guidelines:

- Children can come and go throughout the service as we understand it is hard to be still for so long. We encourage children to walk and not run in order to move quietly.
- Children can read or draw pictures as they absorb the liturgy taking place around them as we worship together.
- So other worshippers can hear properly, we ask that talking be minimal and kept to a whisper. That's hard sometimes, so having a parent seated in the pews closest to the Prayground to help remind our children that this is quiet time is appreciated.



The Prayground is something we have offered for several years before the pandemic and was very successful. We are glad to be reopening the Prayground as a way to welcome our children into the spiritual practice of worshipping God.



**Sunday morning adult education classes will not be held on December 26 and January 2.**

**Children's and youth classes will not meet until January 9.**

**Disciples Bible Study will not meet on December 23 or December 30.**

**Advent Book Study and Sharing  
Final wrap-up on Sunday, January 9  
10:50 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.  
in the Church Parlor and on Zoom**

There will be a wrap-up for participants and a summarization of readings for the rest of the Christmas and Epiphany seasons found in the book *Watch for the Light – Readings for Advent and Christmas*.

### Ongoing Study Groups

- Wednesday Evening Book Study (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month) at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. Contact: Betsy Wacker at [wacker.betsy@att.net](mailto:wacker.betsy@att.net).
- Disciples Bible Study at 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Parlor and on Zoom. Contact: Diane McCullough at [dmccpae@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmccpae@sbcglobal.net). *Will not meet on December 23 or December 30.*
- Men's Bible Study. Every other Thursday at 7:00 a.m. Contact: Frank Bloemke at 314-962-0584.



### Stay Connected!

**Sign up for our Emailed Friday Flash at [wgpc.org/announcements/](http://wgpc.org/announcements/) to learn more about upcoming events with access to direct links for sign-ups and other resources.**

## **Masks in Worship**

Children in our congregation five years and up have been cleared to be vaccinated, but it will take some time for them to get appointments. There are also some immunocompromised individuals who are unable to be vaccinated. For the sake of these in our church family we are at this time, asking all vaccinated and unvaccinated worshipers to please wear a mask during worship and as you move around the church. We ask you to also remain "socially distanced." While the risk remains relatively low for vaccinated individuals, we believe making this sacrifice for others in our church is a faithful action to take to express our love for one another. Thank you for your kindness, understanding, and patience. Encourage those you know who are not vaccinated to be vaccinated so we can get back to normal!  
Thank you. – *Pastor Ed*

Please submit bulletin announcements by the end of **Tuesday** prior to the desired Sunday to Barbara Fischer at [baf@wgpc.org](mailto:baf@wgpc.org).