

# Westwood United Methodist Church

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Service (5pm)

## PRELUDE

**Max Wagner**  
*Guitar*

## WELCOME

**Molly Vetter**  
*Senior Pastor*

## HYMN

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**UMH No. 220**

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear:

*Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King.*

*Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**Laurel Hinds & Cosette Dobson**

*On this Christmas night, we celebrate a God of freedom. We praise God for giving us a song to sing. God frees us from every cage, giving hope to those who seem forgotten.*

*The ancient prophet Micah speaks of God's promise of this gift:*

*But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. (Micah 5:2-5a)*

*O God of hope, peace, joy, and love; God of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the magi, the powerful and the dispossessed: we thank you and praise you for being a God of the shadows. We thank you for bringing hope where there is despair, peace where there is conflict, joy where there is sorrow, and love where there is indifference. Give us the grace and wisdom to do the same.*

**RESPONSE****Ben, Stacy, Jacob, Max and Walter Scherer**

*We light a candle for Christ's birth. Glory to God!*

**HYMN****O Come, All Ye Faithful****Sarah Wolter***Vocals and Guitar*

**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!**

**POEM****"Caged Bird" from *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?*****Grapple Group***Maya Angelou, 1983*

*A free bird leaps  
on the back of the wind  
and floats downstream  
till the current ends  
and dips his wing  
in the orange sun rays  
and dares to claim the sky.*

*But a bird that stalks  
down his narrow cage  
can seldom see through  
his bars of rage  
his wings are clipped and  
his feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing.*

*The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.*

*The free bird thinks of another breeze  
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees  
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn  
and he names the sky his own*

*But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams  
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream  
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing.*

*The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.*

**SONG*****I'll Be Home for Christmas*****Julia Black, Vocals  
Doug Peck, Piano**

**WESTWOOD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT      “Do Not Be Afraid”      Westwood Children’s Ministry**  
A virtual Christmas Pageant from Illustrated Ministry  
[www.illustratedministry.com](http://www.illustratedministry.com)

**Scene 1: “When the World Feels Scary”**

**Auggie and Ryan Dobson**

**SONG**

***Breath of Heaven***

**Savanna Cohen, *Vocals*  
Ella and Amanda Annear, *Dancers***

**Scene 2: “Mary, the Favored One”**

**Josie and Katie Hooten**

**Scene 3: “Mary Visits Elizabeth”**

**Emery and Noel Salyer**

**Scene 4: “Joseph Has A Dream”**

**Max and TJ Tyler**

**Scene 5: “Tough Questions”**

**Merrick and Bobbi Shiflett**

**Scene 6: “Caesar Augustus”**

**Will and Henry Read**

**SONG**

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

**Jack and Benny Lipson,  
*Vocals and Guitar***

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.***

**Scene 7: “Mary and Joseph Arrive in Bethlehem”**

**Hannah, Simon, and Wesley Gipson**

**SONG**

***The Friendly Beasts***

**Nora Mills, *Vocals*  
Tanya Mills, *Piano***

***Featuring:*  
Saoirse and Moxie Holbert  
Hattie Laubach  
Cierra, Anthony and Baby M Salmeron-Meneses  
Max Tyler  
Lydian Witt and Mikailyn Witt  
Grace Worrel**

**Scene 8: “Wait a Minute...”**

**Christopher and Stephanie Lange**

**Scene 9: “The Shepherds Hear the Good News”**

**Roag, Ford, Eliot, Lauren and Don Miller**

**HYMN**

***Joy to the World***

**Sanctuary Quartet,  
Yoojung Chung, *Organist*  
Westwood Kids from Home**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
*and heav'n and nature sing,*  
*and heav'n and nature sing,*  
*and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

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

**Scene 10: "The Magi and King Herod"**

**Sydney, Quinn, Marlowe,  
Scott and Kayli Weatherford**

**SONG**

***We Three Kings***

**Ben Carroll  
*Vocals and Guitar***

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.  
*O star of wonder, star of light,*  
*star with royal beauty bright,*  
*westward leading, still proceeding,*  
*guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Scene 11: "This is Just the Beginning"**

**Jonah and Matt Parker  
and Molly Vetter**

**Scene 12: "Mary Gets the Last Word"**

**C.J. Foucher**

**SONG**

***Go! Tell It On the Mountain***

**Cyrus Banks, *Guitar*  
Julia Black and Doug Peck**

## HOMILY

Molly Vetter

## HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Sanctuary Quartet

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 th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Terence Hagans  
*Pastor of The Loft*

## 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO CANDLELIGHT

Molly Vetter

We invite you to share in our Christmas tradition of lighting candles; there are no rules about what kind of candles you can use, so please use what you have, where you are. We encourage you to find a candle (or electric candle or glow stick) for each person who's watching.

Hold that light as we sing *Silent Night* together; it is a sign of Christ's love,  
born into each of us tonight.

**HYMN**

***Silent Night***

**UMH No. 239**

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 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 star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
*Christ the Savior is born,*  
*Christ the Savior is born!*

**BENEDICTION**

**Molly Vetter**

**POSTLUDE**

***Joy to the World***  
Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

**Yoojung Chung**

# *Participating in Tonight's Service*

## **Pastoral Staff**

Molly Vetter, *Senior Pastor*  
Terence Hagans, *Pastor of The Loft*

## **Sanctuary Music Leadership**

Andrew Schultz, *Director of Sanctuary Music*  
Yoojung Chung, *Organist and piano accompanist*

Shelby Stroud, *alto soloist*  
Taylor Jacobs, *tenor soloist*  
Amy Cruz, *guest soprano*  
Byron Jones, *guest bass*

## **Loft Music Leadership**

Julia Black, *Director of Loft Music, lead vocals*  
Ben Carroll, *guitar and vocals*  
Benny Lipson, *guitar and vocals*  
Jack Lipson, *guitar and vocals*  
Doug Peck, *piano*  
Max Wagner, *guitar*  
Sarah Wolter, *vocals*

## **Acolytes**

Cosette Dobson  
Laurel Hinds

## **Poetry Interpretation**

Julia Black  
Cosette Dobson  
Laurel Hinds  
Josie Hooten  
Emma Pang-Le  
Maya Angelou (archive footage)

## **Special Thanks**

Diana Holbert, *Children's Ministries Pastor* and Ryan Dobson, *Youth Director*  
for all their work in organizing and overseeing the virtual Christmas pageant.

## **Production**

Andrew Schultz, *Director of Photography*  
Richard An, *videography*  
Joshua Morales, *sound engineer*  
David Trotter, *editor*  
Sabrina Simmons, *production assistant*