

Westwood United Methodist Church

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Worship (8pm)

-with music starting at 7:30pm-

Opening Music

Prelude on “The Holly and the Ivy”

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

Yoojung Chung

Schlafendes Jesuskind

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

Shelby Stroud

Greensleeves

Traditional English carol, arr. Carlos Salzedo (1885-1961)

Alison Bjorkedal

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, arr. Theodore Preus

Sherley-Ann Belleus

Dormi Jesu

Edmund Rubbra (1901-1986)

Sanctuary Quartet

Winter Scene from The Nutcracker Ballet

P.I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893), arr. Marga Richter (1926-2020)

Yoojung Chung & Joshua Tan

O Tannenbaum

Traditional German carol, arr. by Daniel Burton (b.1944)

Yoojung Chung & Alison Bjorkedal

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional English carol, arr. Jarrod Radnich (b. 1982)

Joshua Tan

Nativity Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)

2019 Chancel Choir

Improvisation on Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Yoojung Chung

Yoojung Chung

Candlelight Service

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-5, 14

Terence Hagans

Pastor for The Loft

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

WELCOME

Molly Vetter

Senior Pastor

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH No. 234

**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!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.**

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

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!

ANTHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sanctuary Quartet

R. Daniel Hold (b. 1955), text by Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Terence Hagans

Pastor of The Loft

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name

was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH No. 240

**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"***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
*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"***

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

John Richardson

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

What Child is This?

UMH No. 219

**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.
*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
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.
*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.***

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-16

Molly Vetter

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM***Angels We Have Heard on High*****Sanctuary Quartet**

Traditional French Carol, arr. Howard Helvey

*Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*See Him in a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
With us sing our Savior's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

SCRIPTURE READING**Matthew 2:1-11****Terence Hagans**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN***The First Noel*****UMH No. 245**

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

**Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

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.*

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Alison Bjorkedal

MEDITATION

Molly Vetter

CALL TO PRAYER

Love Came Down at Christmas

Sanctuary Quartet

Text by Christina Rossetti

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor,
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Terence Hagans

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

UMH No. 246

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.

Participating in Tonight's Service

Pastoral Staff

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

Liturgists

John Richardson

Music Leadership

Andrew Schultz, *Director of Sanctuary Music*
Yoojung Chung, *Organist*
Joshua Tan, *guest pianist*
Alison Bjorkedal, *guest harp*

Shelby Stroud, *alto soloist*
Taylor Jacobs, *tenor soloist*
Sherley-Ann Belleus, *guest soprano*
Cassie Schmitt, *guest soprano*
Amy Cruz, *guest alto*
Byron Jones, *guest bass*

Sacred Dancer

Denise Freese

Acolytes

Laurel Hinds
Cosette Dobson

Poetry Interpretation

Cosette Dobson, Laurel Hinds, Emma Pang-Le
Julia Black, and Josie Hooten

Maya Angelou (archive footage)

Production

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