

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

5 PM, December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

Words for the Beginning: Love Knows Your Name



Lisle

Inspired by Luke 2:10, Matthew 2:10, Isaiah 9:2-3, Psalm 148, Isaiah 55:12-13

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Ink dyes and gold resist on silk, with digital collage

Prelude

“What Child Is This” by Richard Purvis
“Noël” by Louis-Claude Daquin
“Shepherds and Angels” by Larry Shackley

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Choral Introit

Sussex Carol

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Call to Worship

Larson Family

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

All: Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace. Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.

One: Yes, let us begin with love, for this Christmas Eve we rejoice that love knows our names. Love knows us.

All: May we rest in that good news. A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the highest heaven!

*Hymn #133

O Come All Ye Faithful

*Call to Confession

Deacon Brooke Larson

***Prayer of Confession and Seeking the Light**

Loving Christ, when the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. We wish that we were more like that. Instead, somewhere between the angels' song and the manger, we tend to lose our way. We doubt ourselves. We doubt the invitation. We doubt that love could know our names. Remind us that your love draws near to us. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. With hope we sing, we pray, and we run. Amen.

*Response to Confession #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (verse 1)

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Deacon Brooke Larson

We pour water into the baptismal font at this time as a sign of our renewal in baptism and in confession. It is a visual reminder of the Nicene Creed's affirmation, "I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins," and Romans 5:5 that promises, "God's love is being poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

Believe and share the good news! ***In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!***

***Response of Praise #113**

Angels We Have Heard on High (verse 1)

*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!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

***Passing of Christ's Peace**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors.

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Children's Chat

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

O.T. pg. 638

New Testament

Luke 2:1-20

N.T. pg. 58

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

"Love Knows Your Name"

Rev. Chris Peters

Special Music

"O Come Rejoicing"
Westminster Choir

***Prayers of the People**

Deacon Brooke Larson

***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 of the Light

(Pastors and ushers will light the candle of the person seated closest to the center aisle in each pew; light is then passed until all candles are lit. Please be very careful to keep candles away from hair and clothing. God bless you on this special night!)

Reading: John 1:1-5

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #122**

Silent Night, Holy Night

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

*Hymn #134

Joy to the World (verse 3—choir only)

Postlude

"Hallelujah" from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel

*Please rise in body or spirit for these parts of worship.

Tonight's words for worship (liturgy) are adapted from Words for the Beginning: Words for Worship (A Sanctified Art LLC, Rev. Sarah Are Speed) and written by Pastor Chris or our liturgist.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a blue Children's Worship Bag in the narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is at the north end of the Narthex.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and near the top of the stairs in the sanctuary on the Garden Room / South side. Look for the baskets and signs that read "Giving Basket." Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service.

For online giving, scan the QR code.



Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Liturgist: Deacon Brooks Larson

Advent Candle Lighting: Larson Family

Music Director: Dr. Mary Young

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kelly Braswell-Burbach & Josh Whitfield

Ushers: Diana Wild, Martha Kingsbury, Joyce Douglas, April Douglas, Jacquelyn Douglas, Charles Stoecker

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter



Donations for the poinsettias arranged in the chancel for Christmas and for the church library are given by the following members and friends.

- In loving memory of our beloved wife and mother Noreen Amend, by Herb Amend & her children, Cori (Ryan), Michael (Kerry), Shawn (Dawn) & Kelly (Jenny).
- In loving memory of our dear Grammy Noreen, by her grandchildren, Ashley (Bryce), Chelsea (Ira), Bailey, Jagger, Stephanie, Ansley, Ryder & her great grandchildren, Crew, Dylan and Cash.
- In loving memory of our parents, Edward & Mary Beierman and Lloyd & Judith Anderson, by Kathy Anderson.
- In loving memory of our son Mark Bockrath, by Bob & Becky Bockrath.
- In honor of our children Annie and Dave Bougger and Matt and Nicki Olson, by Loy and Julie Olson.
- In honor of Linda Burchard and PW Coordinating Team, by Eliza Sams.
- In loving memory of Dr. Henry Cech, by Lesley & Kent Jagers and Sydney & Steve Uthoff.
- In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Dana F. Cole, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cole, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Koepke, Keith Koepke and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sinkey, by the Dana C. Cole family.
- In honor of the Doug and Linda Davis, the Mark and Vicki Davis, and Robin Stone Families, by Rev. Ellen Davis.
- In loving memory of Rev. Lynn Davis and Leigh and Deborah Davis, by Rev. Ellen Davis.
- In loving memory of Robert C. (Bob) Dawson, by Nancy Dawson.
- In loving memory of our parents Dick and Phyllis DeBuse and Tish and Jerry Driner, by Chip and Lisa DeBuse.
- In loving memory of Chip's brother, Larry DeBuse, by Chip and Lisa DeBuse.
- In loving memory of Barb Dittenber, by Amy and Todd Peterson and family.
- In honor of Dan Dittenber, by Amy and Todd Peterson and family.
- In loving memory of Elnor & Vernon Dunn, by Ray and Karen Stevens.
- In loving memory of Leah Peterson Gaston, by Amy and Todd Peterson and family.
- In honor of the Westminster Gathering Place Team, by Carolyn Harp.
- In loving memory of Michael Gregg, by Freda Gregg and family.
- In loving memory of Michael Gregg, by Linda Burchard.
- In loving memory of Lewis "Chip" Hackley, by Pat Hackley.

In honor of Pat Hackley and PW Circle 5, by Eliza Sams.

In loving memory of Rev. Roger C. Harp, by Carolyn Harp.

In loving memory of my husband, Dr. Bob Hayes, by Helen Hayes.

In loving memory of my father, Dr. Bob Hayes and my brother Bob, by Janet Hayes.

In honor of Phillip Whitmarsh, Karen Hoffman and their families, by Carolyn Harp.

In honor of the members of Honor Circle 1 with gratitude for their gifts: Dorothy Glen, Pam Martin, Ginny Rohrbaugh & Eliza Sams, by the Westminster Presbyterian Women Coordination Team.

In loving memory of Macy Michelle Jagers, by Lesley, Kent & Kyle Jagers and Avery, Myles, Rowan & Reese Eklund.

In loving memory of our parents, by Karen and John Janovy Jr.

In loving memory of Jim Johnson, by Suzann Johnson.

In loving memory of Earl, Florence & Lyall Luff, by Art & Earlene Knox.

In honor of Laurie, Kraig, Lexi and Brooke Lofquist and Andy, Emily, Olivia, Abby, and Noah Seward, by Harry and Judy Seward.

In loving memory of my husband, Ted Maude, by Marilyn Maude.

In honor of our children, Susan Christensen, Pete Maude, and Matt Maude, and their families, by Marilyn Maude.

In honor of our children, Alyssa and Jared, by David and Lavon McBride.

In loving memory of David P. Miller, by Linda Miller.

In loving memory of Gates & Daisy Minnick, by the Minnick Family.

In loving memory of Gerald D. Myers, by Ray & Karen Stevens.

In loving memory of Bernie & Marylu Nider and Don Kreiter, by Susie Kreiter; Chris Nider; Laurie, Andy, Natasha, Maggie & Travis Glenn; Julie, Joe, Josh, Rachael & Jason Madsen; Pat & Natalie Nider.

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sigfried North and brother Jake, by Bill North.

In loving memory of Ben Overbay, by Gary and Glenna Haller.

In loving memory of Ben Overbay, by Linda Burchard.

In loving memory of Karen Paulson, by the Hemmerling Family.

In honor of Harriet and George Peterson, by Amy and Todd Peterson and family.

In loving memory of James and Nancy Weesner and Dean and Marion Petersen, by Tim and Amy Clare and family.

In loving memory of Leo and Zetta Phillip, by Kathy Phillip.

In loving memory of Jonathon Reiber, by Layne and Carrie Sup and family.

In loving memory of our parents, by Bill & Joan Roberts.

In honor of our niece, Ingid and husband Hugh, by Bill & Joan Roberts.

In loving memory of Dorothy Romisch, by the Minnick Family.

In loving memory of Ted Schirmer, by Regi Schirmer.

In loving memory of Franny and Harry Seward, Cordy Crosby, Harrie and Robnett, George and Dorothy Wright, by Harry and Judy Seward.

In loving memory of H. Darrell & Esther Shanklin, by Jimmy & Carol Shelbourn.

In loving memory of Chip Smith, by Marilyn Smith and family.

In loving memory of our niece Corrine Smith, by Barbara and David Arunski.

In loving memory of Ray & Mary Esther Stevens, by Ray & Karen Stevens.

In loving memory of Susie Sup, by the Sup Family.

In loving memory of Muriel & Cliff Towers, beloved mother and stepfather, by Jim & Dorothy Smiley.

In loving memory of Allen Wachter, by Valery & Eric Wachter.

In loving memory of Ron Wachter, by Valery & Eric Wachter.

In honor of our children and grandchildren, by Tom and Janell Welstead.

In loving memory and appreciation of Jeannie and Bus Whitehead, by Sydney & Steve Uthoff; Brittany & Matt Goldberg; Lesley, Kent and Kyle Jagers; Avery, Myles, Rowan & Reese Eklund; and Mark, Chris, Maddie & Katie Whitehead.

In loving memory of Mary Garrison Wright, Lucile Garrison, Ed & Polly Mallowney and Loy Lyn Hindman, by Don & Dianna Wright.

Artist Lisle Gwynn Garrity Comments on Bulletin Image

This quilt square collage shows the ripple effect of joy dancing throughout all creation. In the nativity story, the birth of Christ is meant to bring universal joy and good news to all people, especially those like the shepherds who might be estranged, undervalued, or marginalized (Luke 2:10). Joy greets the Magi during their long and arduous journey; when the star stops, they know they are close (Matthew 2:10).

For the focal point of this design, I chose an eight-pointed star, which is symbolic in many cultures and religious traditions.¹¹ In Judeo-Christian traditions, the number eight symbolizes new beginnings, as seven is the number of completion. The eight points can also represent the four cardinal directions combined with the four elements: fire, air, water, and earth. For many, an eight-pointed star means harmony and balance. In this image, I wanted the landscape to feel refracted, perhaps like a prism, or even a broken mirror. The land rejoices despite forces that try to break it. The horizon expands into all directions. There is no east or west, north or south—the arms of creation reach into the cosmos. In between stars and moons, fruit trees bear their harvest and clap their hands. In many ways, this piece is a song of praise as well as a song of resistance. Creation cannot be quieted. If praise is not on your lips this day, do not fear, for we can trust that all of creation is dancing on our behalf.

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 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 15th-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.

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.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤*
어둠에 물헌밤
주의부모 앉아서
감사기도 드릴때
아기잘도 잔다
아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,
 and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Upcoming Events and Information

Faith Village - Christian Education for Children K-5th Grade

Faith Village will not meet on Wed., Dec. 25 or Jan.1. On Sunday, Dec. 29, we will have a Pajama and Cupcake Fondue party after we have been dismissed from the service. Be sure to wear your pajamas and be ready to enjoy food and fun!

Youth Group Lock-In

Middle and High School Youth Groups will not meet from Dec.25 - Jan. 1. On Jan. 3, we will have our annual Winter Lock-In. Plan to play games, eat pizza, and hang out with friends all night at church. We start at 8 PM on Jan. 3 and finish at 8 AM on Sat., Jan.4. All youth who plan on attending must register here <https://forms.gle/HW114pPN9Je7NueS7>.

Green at Heart: Recycle Styrofoam and Christmas Lights

Foam and Christmas lights are trickling in. Remember, you don't have to send these items to the landfill. Green@Heart has found a place to take EPS #6 (expanded polystyrene) the rigid white packing foam that protects items while shipping. Egg and food cartons and packing peanuts can go in orange Hefty bags. We also have a destination for defunct Christmas lights. Containers are by the east doors.

Adult Education Classes in January

January 5: "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" will provide a speaker on their work for children which includes making bunk beds and quilts.

January 12: TeamMates Mentoring of Lincoln will speak on their program.

January 19: Laurie McCubbin, Director, will speak about Westminster Preschool.

January 26: Malone Community Center speaker

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402.475-6702**