

SIGNS *of* PROMISE



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CANDLE *of* HOPE

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY ARE:

Christopher Edmonston, Pastor

Anne Galliher, Pastoral Resident

Gloria Johnson, Associate Pastor for Outreach

Kirsten Homdrom, Associate Director of Music

Karl Zinsmeister, Director of Music

Jeanine Wagner, soprano

Margaret Simmons, piano

WHITE MEMORIAL
— PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH —

ORDER OF SERVICE

(We request that you hum, not sing out loud, and read congregational readings silently.)

Greeting

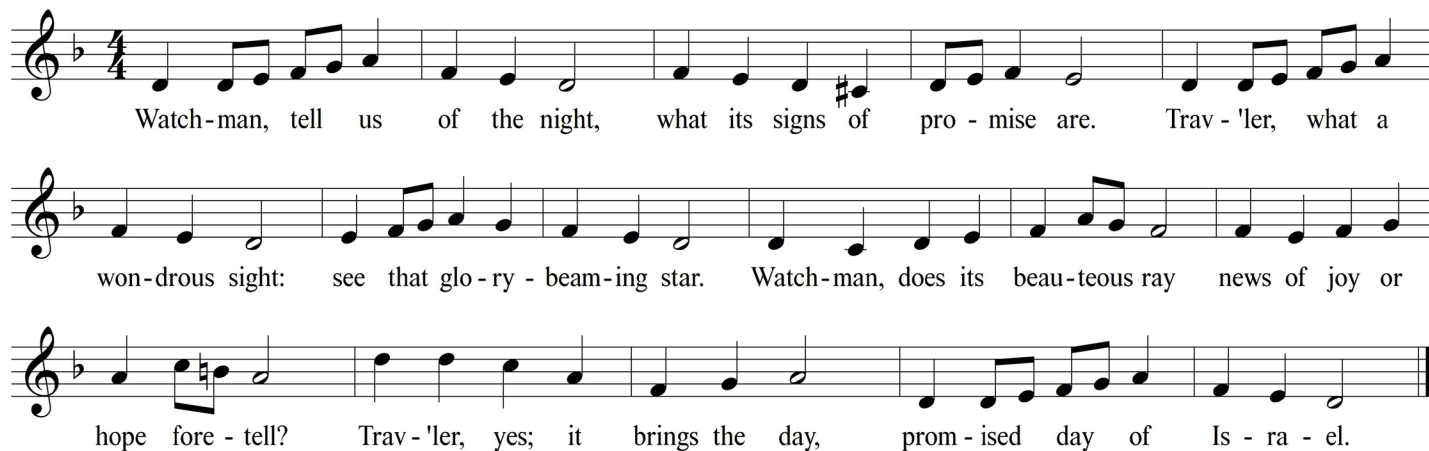
Prelude - Meditation on *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(*Glory to God*, Hymn 97, stanza 1)



Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of pro - mise are. Trav - 'ler, what a
won-drous sight: see that glo - ry - beam-ing star. Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or
hope fore - tell? Trav - 'ler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

All: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

One: Stir up your might, and come to save us!

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Psalm 80:1-3

Today We Light the Candle of Hope

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days
when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2:4

Let Us Pray

Faithful God,
your promises stand unshaken through all generations.
Renew us in hope,
that we may be awake and alert
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our judge and savior,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 94 - *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

Prayer of Confession

Long ago the prophet Isaiah said, “In days to come the Lord’s house shall be established and shall be raised above the hills, and all the nations shall stream to it.” Knowing that this was your dream, we confess that we have failed to follow your path. God of Advent grace and Christmas joy, we confess our sin before you. We usually lack the faith to follow. Our eyes grow tired and we stop looking to the hills for your signs of promise, your promise of peace. Distracted, we lose our way. In the name of your promised Son, forgive our sin and set us on right paths; help us to see your signs of promise. In the name of Jesus, hear our prayer. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

(11:00) **Alice Rey Howe**, child of Bethany and Matthew Howe

John Lauchlin Munford, child of Lauren and Franklin Munford

New Testament Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’
with great power and glory.
²⁷Then he will send out the angels,
and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson:
as soon as its branch becomes
tender and puts forth its leaves,
you know that summer is near.
²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place,
you know that he is near, at the very gates.
³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place.
³¹Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.
³²“But about that day or hour no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father.
³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know
when the time will come.
³⁴It is like a man going on a journey,
when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge,
each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know
when the master of the house will come,
in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

A Time with Young Disciples

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that
we did not expect, you came down,
the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any
God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities,
like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry,
O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Sermon - Signs of Promise: *“We Are All Your People”*

Musical Offering – *My Lord, What a Morning*

arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

Prayers of the People and 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.

Responding in Faith

Fifth Sunday Hunger Offering

Affirmation of Faith

(adapted from the *Presbyterian Church Study Catechism*)

One: What does it mean to say that
Jesus Christ is the image of God?
All: Despite our turning from God, God did not turn from us,
but instead sent Jesus Christ in the fullness of time
to restore our broken humanity. Jesus is a sign of God's promise.
Jesus lived completely for God, by giving himself completely for us,
even to the point of dying for us. By living so completely for others,
he manifested what he was — the perfect image of God.
When by grace we are conformed to him through faith,
our humanity is renewed according to the divine image that we lost.
This is our faith and our trust for Jesus is our Prince of Peace.

Hymn 459 - *O Word of God Incarnate*

Charge and Benediction

The congregation is invited to remain seated/logged on for the Postlude during the season of Advent.
Following the Postlude, ushers will assist with a socially distanced departure for in person worshippers.

Postlude – *Adagio sostenuto* from *Sonata in c-sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2* Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Chiming of the Trinity

* * *

JOYS & CONCERNS

NEW PRESBYTERIANS

Patrick McCrory Sebastian, born November 6, child of Kristen and Patrick Sebastian

* * *

Cover art

Tsunami Orb from "*A Mystery Revealed*" by James Fissel
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Music included in today's service

Meditation on *Of the Father's Love Begotten*; Charles Callahan © 1993 Randall M. Egan
HYMN 97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*; Text and Music Public Domain
HYMN 94 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*; Text © 2005 Mary Louise Bringle
(alternate tune: NETTLETON), Music Public Domain
My Lord, What a Morning; Mark Hayes (b. 1953); © 1998 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.
HYMN 459 *O Word of God Incarnate*; Text and Music Public Domain
Adagio sostenuto from *Sonata in c-sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2*;
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); Public Domain

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For your convenience, offering baskets can be found near the Exit doors in the front of the Sanctuary as you leave today's service. If you're more comfortable giving online, you may do that through our website at www.whitememorial.org

Please take your bulletin with you and either dispose of in the recycling receptical outside or take home. Thank you.

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1. Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin. Earth from
 2. Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way. Dia - mond
 3. Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed, come to



slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of __
 bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the __
 bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the __




prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to __ spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the
 morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's
 lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the __ out - cast, hid from view: Child who

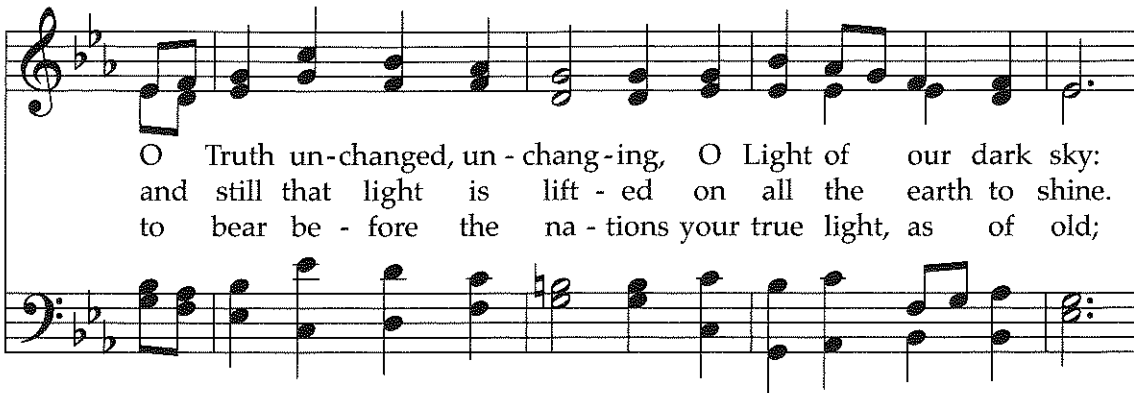


soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

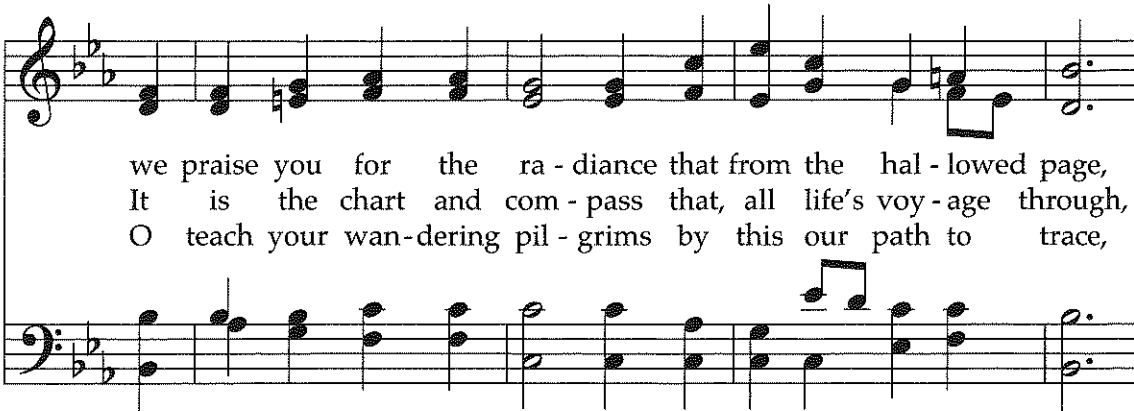
459 O Word of God Incarnate



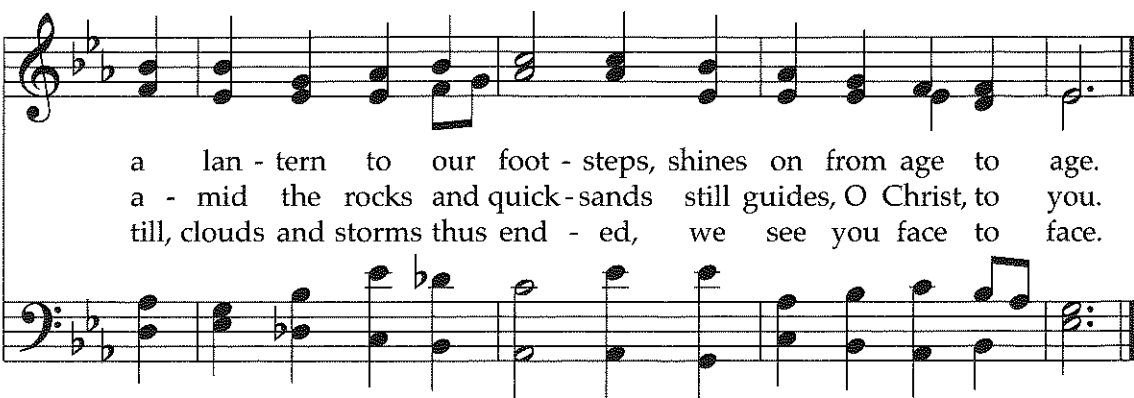
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

The opening four lines of this hymn celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT WMPC?

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 30

9@9 a.m.

Daily | Facebook Live

Begin the morning each weekday with a live 9-minute Bible study led by Grier Booker Richards, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Chip Pope, Associate Pastor for Youth and their Families. You can find all of their studies on Facebook, Instagram and our website.

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 1

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

7:30 a.m. | Zoom | [Registration required](#)

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 2

Midweek Advent Evening Prayer

6:30 p.m. | Live Stream

This Advent season we invite you to share Wednesday evenings with us as a time of reflection, prayer and music.

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 3

Keenagers

10:00 a.m. | Zoom

If you are 55 years old +, we invite you to join Keenagers via Zoom on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. as Dr. Landy Anderton offers tips on dealing with social distancing during the holidays. Please contact Tonya Higgins at thiggins@whitememorial.org to receive your Zoom link.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 6

Joy Gift

4:00-5:30 p.m. | Zoom | Drive down McDonald Lane

All are invited to drive down McDonald Lane and see the magic of the Christmas Story unfold as they make their way to the decorated tree where you can place an unwrapped new toy or food for families in need. There will be live music and much more!

LIBRARY BOOK RETURN REQUEST

In preparation for the reopening of our church library and following the procedure established by the Wake County Public Library, we are asking church members to return the books they borrowed. Please return your library books to the box in the Witherspoon lobby. We would like to have all books returned by November 30. Thank you!

HOLIDAY MEALS FOR FAMILIES

Instead of our usual turkey collection this year, we will send checks to agencies offering meals. If you would like to help with Thanksgiving/Christmas meals please give online at www.whitememorial.org/register (designate Holiday Meals) by December 6.

CHRISTMAS SHARE

Christmas Share, an alternative giving program, has put over one million dollars in our community and toward our international partnerships. Started almost 30 years ago by Presbyterian Women, it continues to be an important Christmas outreach opportunity. One check is sent to each agency for the total amounts contributed. [You can find forms online to make a donation](#) or contact Gloria Johnson at gjohnson@whitememorial.org for more information.

COATS, HATS AND GLOVES

The Presbyterian Women are collecting coats, gloves, knit hats and scarves for cold weather in all sizes. These can be dropped off in the red bins in front of the Witherspoon Building.

ADVENT GREENERY/MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA

Contributions in memory of a loved one or in honor of a family member, friend, or member of the church family are welcomed. Contributions may be made for any amount. All of those honored or memorialized will be listed in the bulletin on December 20 and Christmas Eve services. All requests must be in the church office by noon on Monday, December 14. [Forms can be found online](#). Questions? Contact Rebecca Turner at rturner@whitememorial.org.

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR NEW OFFICERS

The Churchwide Nominating Committee starts meeting in mid-January to consider nominations for church Elders and Deacons, class of 2024. Nominations are now being accepted. Please give prayerful consideration to placing a church member into nomination for these critical leadership roles. The nomination form can be found at: www.whitememorial.org/church_officers. All recommendations must be received by January 11, 2021. This form may be 1) returned electronically to rturner@whitememorial.org; 2) dropped off at the church; or 3) mailed to the church office.

Registration for most events can be found on our website www.whitememorial.org/register