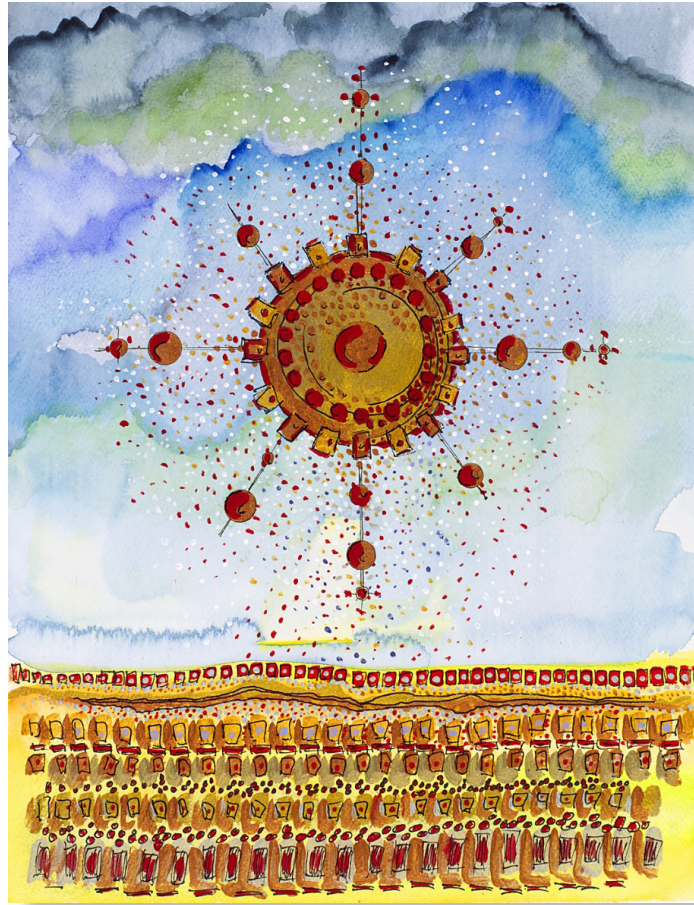


SIGNS *of* PROMISE



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CANDLE *of* LOVE

DECEMBER 20, 2020

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY ARE:

Christopher Edmonston, Pastor

Andrew Amodei, Executive Director

Gloria Johnson, Associate Pastor for Outreach

Kelly Gold, Director of Children's and Youth Music

Kirsten Homdrom, Associate Director of Music

Karl Zinsmeister, Director of Music

Liz Marks, soprano

Tim Sparks, tenor

Jared Smith, bass

WHITE MEMORIAL
— PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH —

ORDER OF SERVICE

Greeting

Prelude - Sleepers Wake, a Voice is Calling

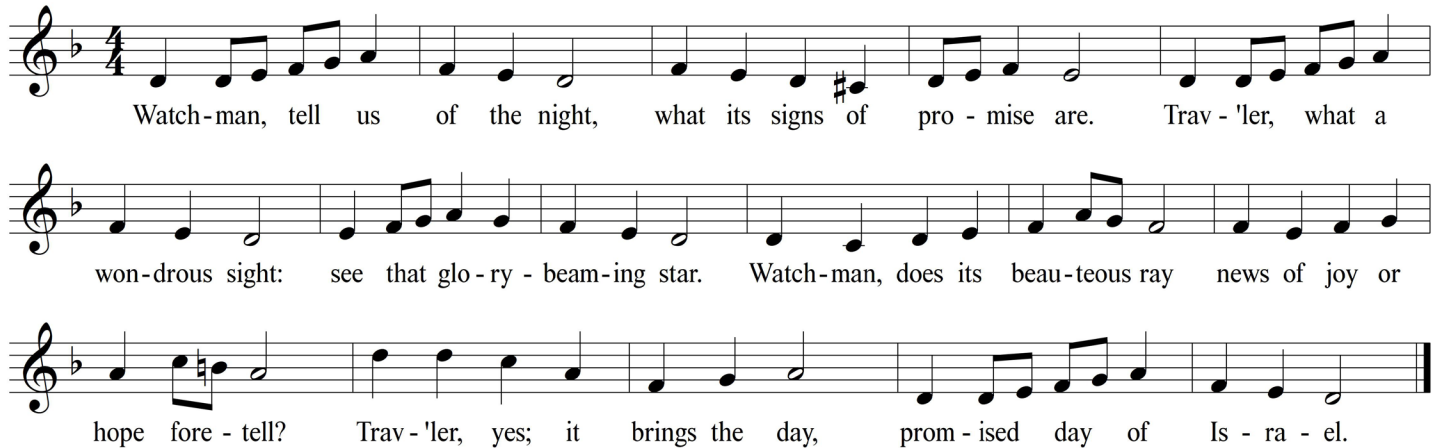
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Glory to God, Hymn 97, stanza 1

(All singing)



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: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

All: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

One: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

All: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

*One: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:*

**All: 'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'"**

One: Come, worship the God whose faithful love endures for all generations.

Psalm 89:1-4

The first three candles of Advent are hope, peace, and joy!

Today we light the candle of love!

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child

And shall bear a son,

And shall name him Immanuel – which means "God is with us."

Isaiah 7:14b

Let us pray.

God of grace,

you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,

to be the mother of our Lord and Savior.

Now fill us with your grace,

that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation,

and in all things, embrace your will;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 110 - *Love Has Come*

Prayer of Confession

O Lord our God, receive our prayer of confession: can it be that you are always sending us signs and signals, but we are too preoccupied to notice? Long ago a young woman, Mary, gave birth to a Son who came to save us from the worst in ourselves and to forgive our sins. But so many paid no notice at all. Help us see the signals and listen to your word. Help us live as the redeemed and the restored. Help us live by your promises of love. For the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 89:1-4; 19-26

¹I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

²I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴"I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah

¹⁹Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

"I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

²¹my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

²²The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

²³I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

A Time with Young Disciples

New Testament Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³²He 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.

³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

⁵The 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.

³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸Then 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.

Sermon - *Signs of Promise: "Good Tidings of Love"*

Musical Offering – *Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes*

Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

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

Christmas Joy Offering

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he arose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn 100 - *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

Charge and Benediction

The congregation is invited to remain seated/logged on for the Postlude during the season of Advent. Following the Postlude, in-person worshippers may depart through the Narthex or through the doors at the front of the Sanctuary.

Postlude – *Postlude on UN FLAMBEAU*

arr. Keith Chapman

Chiming of the Trinity

* * *

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) 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 B^b 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 B^b 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 B^b 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."

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



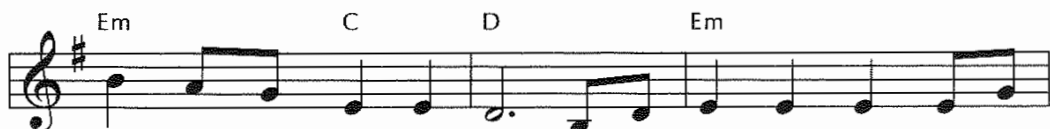
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

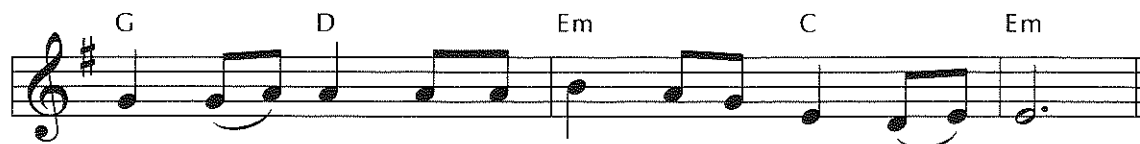


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

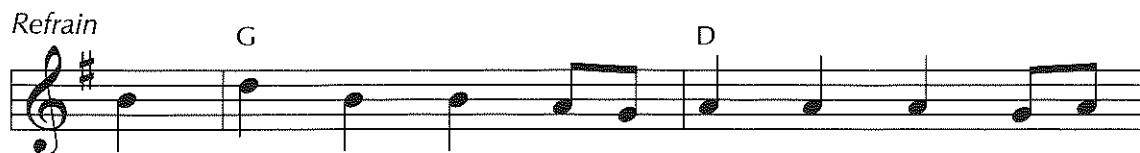


weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



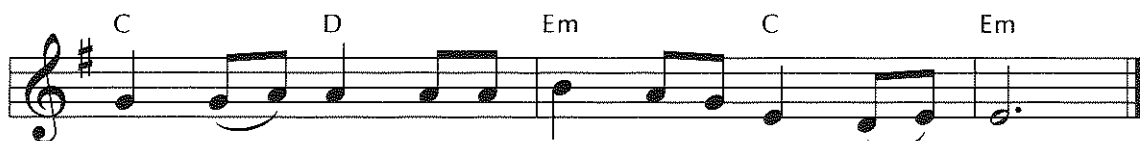
name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

* * *

Cover art

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

Sleepers Wake, a Voice is Calling; Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750); Public Domain

HYMN 97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*; Text and Music Public Domain

HYMN 110 *Love Has Come*; Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com; Music arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes; Hal Hopson (b. 1933); © 1982 Harold Flammer Music,
 a division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

HYMN 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*; Text and Music arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Postlude on UN FLAMBEAU; arr. Keith Chapman; © 1979 Alfred Music

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WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT WMPC?

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 22

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

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

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 23

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 24

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Live Stream only

- Children's Christmas Eve Bell Service | 3:00 p.m.

- Candlelight Service | 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Stroll | 4:30-8:00 p.m.

with live music 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Enjoy a walk down McDonald Lane and through the heart of our campus where you'll find prayer and craft stations and live music. During the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, we invite you to join us in lighting a candle at home. We are offering small candles with a drip protector, which can be picked up in the Witherspoon lobby. Supplies are limited, so we ask that you take only what you need for your family. Pick-up is available 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. December 14-23, and 9:00 a.m. until noon on Christmas Eve.

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.

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.

* * *

GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN 2021 UPDATE

As of Wednesday, December 16, we have received 815 pledges totaling \$3,575,467. If you have not already, please consider making a pledge at www.whitememorial.org/generosity.

UNIDENTIFIED STOCK

Will the generous donors of Yum Brands, Cigna Corp., and Vanguard Index stocks please call Jody Grayson at 834-3425, ext 204 to identify your gift so that we can give you proper credit?

Please note that all year-end contributions must be received in the Finance Office by 5:00 PM on December 31, 2020 or postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be claimed as a 2020 donation.

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

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

DECORATIONS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN MEMORY OF,
OR IN HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES:

IN MEMORY OF

Virginia C. Payne, by Mike & Diane Payne.

Helen & Jim Kelly and Phyllis Sliger, by Judy & Fred Kelly.

Peter Pearsall, and Elizabeth & J.D. Lamm, by Frances L. Pearsall.

George Smith, by Patsy B. Smith. Robert & Marion Johnson, Robin Johnson, and Carmi & Kathryn Preston, by William & Terry Preston.

Betty & Lawrence Wilson, and Bonnie & Bob Altstaetter, by Angie & Bruce Altstaetter.

Jim Dorsett, Sr., by Anna Lee Dorsett.

Jane & Vic Bell, Jr., and Jane & Vic Bell, Sr., by the Bell and Cook families.

Matthew Haneline, Raymond Terry, Travis Haneline, and Thelma Haneline, by Karen & Steve Haneline.

Bettye & Jeff Senter, by the Senter family.

Julia Leffler, by Charles & Wanda Leffler.

Kate Carney, by Ann & Tom Carney.

Betsy & Penn Marshall, Jr., by Martha Marshall and Julie Nau.

Pete Carruthers, by the Carruthers, Hunt & Embree families.

Charlotte Swart, by Julie M. Nau.

Phyllis Smith, by June Ann & Ken Ward.

Iva C. Anderson, Jr. and Charlotte Bundy, by Iva Anderson.

Ethel & Bob Wyatt, and Mary & Warren Wittmer, by Laura & Robert Wyatt.

Jeff Sanders, by Lynne, Thomas & Sara Sanders.

Thomas A. Newby, Jr., Margaret & Ashby Newby, and Bernice & Roger Henshaw, by Charlotte Newby.

John I. Bradley, Jr., and Doris & Bob Thompson, by Nancy & Gregg Thompson.

Ray Lichtner and Marjorie & Bill Turner, by Ann T. Lichtner.

Kelly Lynn, and Benjamin Hager, by Carol & Jerry Lynn.

Gloria Tisdale, by Terree, Thomas, Jackson & Maggie Montgomery.

H. Maclin & Joyce Fuller, Burnie Batchelor, and Betsy Case, by Marlene & Ronnie Batchelor.

H. William Vassey, by Carol Vassey.

Seawell R. Turner, III, by Rachel Turner and Mary Ann Turner.

Joan & Preston F. Kodak, Jr., by Kristi & Scott Wilson.

Betsy Case, by the Case family.

Lillian & Wallace Andrew, Anne & Lauck Lanahan, Lauck Lanahan, Jr., John Lanahan, and Marian & Charles Aycock, by the Andrew family.

Kay Menius, by Alan & Deborah Menius.

Bonnie Arey, by Janie Chiles.

* * *

IN HONOR OF

The Staff and Lay Worship Leaders who continue to provide worship during the pandemic, by Sandra S. Gray.

Cornelius Swart, by Julie M. Nau.

Lora Zinsmeister and Kelly Gold, by Elizabeth Bond & family.

Bill & Susie Jackson, and the WMPC Staff, by Carol Vassey.

* * *