

**\*Carol:** "Joy to the World!".....No. 134

We hold our candles high on the fourth verse of "Joy to the World," so that the light that we have received may be seen from afar. As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one Light of Christ, so may we reflect Christ's light and love in the world.

**\*Benediction**

*\*Congregation standing. All hymns will be sung out of the Glory to God Hymnal We will sing the first verse of all carols except Joy to the World. Please remain seated during all of the carols except Joy to the World, in order to reflect on the music and power of these ancient words.*

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*So That All May Believe, Rejoice and Give Thanks*

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**PASTOR:** The Rev. Audrey Hartness Reese

**ORGANIST:** Nita McMillan

**PIANIST:** Ann Merritt

**MUSICIANS:** Trish McCoy, Ellen Stancil, Steve Moore, Laura Ann Moore, Jim McMillan

*We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship this evening. If you are a visitor, we extend a special welcome to you and ask that you sign our guest register. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to join our church family for worship on Sundays at 11 am.*



**Westminster Presbyterian  
Church**

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# Westminster Presbyterian Church

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

7:00 P.M.

### Service of Lessons and Carols

#### Prelude

#### Call to Worship (Responsive):

Leader: When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

**People: You crept in beside us.**

**Leader:** And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

**People: Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?**

Leader: Will you come into the darkness of today's world; not the friendly darkness but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing that war will end or that food will come or that the Church cares? Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different? When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

**People: You crept in beside us. Do the same this Christmas, Lord.**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**.....Rev. Audrey and Ashley Reese

**Carol:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus".....No. 82

**First Reading**.....Luke 2:1-5

**Carol:** "Prepare the Way".....No. 106

**Second Reading**.....Luke 2: 6-7

**Carol:** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly".....No. 128

**Third Reading**.....Luke 2:8-12

**Carol:** "Away in a Manger".....No. 115

**Fourth Reading**.....Luke 2:13-15

**Carol:** "Angels We Have Heard on High".....No. 113

**Fifth Reading**.....Luke 2:16-18

**Carol:** "Silent Night, Holy Night".....No. 122

**Sixth Reading**.....Luke 2:19-20

**Carol:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem".....No. 121

**Seventh Reading**.....John 1:1-14

**Message:** "A Feast of Light".....Rev. Audrey H. Reese

**Choral Response:** "O Holy Night".....Berry

*Laura Ann Moore, Soloist*

### The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

#### Invitation to the Lord's Table

#### Great Thanksgiving 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.

#### Breaking of the Bread

#### Communion of the People

#### Prayer after Communion

### Service of Candle Lighting

The God who said, "Let there be light," has caused a light to shine in our hearts. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "That light is the glory of God reflected in the fact of Jesus Christ. As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may the church reflect Christ's light and love in the world. John wrote: "That which was from the beginning, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life... we proclaim to you: God is light! If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have communion with one another... Friends, let us love one another, for love is of God!

**Musical interlude:** (Lighting of the candles)