

***Carol:** "Joy to the World!"No. 40
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 blue Presbyterian Hymnal. We will sing the first verse of all carols except O Come, All Ye Faithful and Joy to the World. Please remain seated during all of the carols except these two, in order to reflect on the music and power of these ancient words.*

So That All May Believe, Rejoice and Give Thanks

PASTOR: The Rev. Audrey Hartness Reese

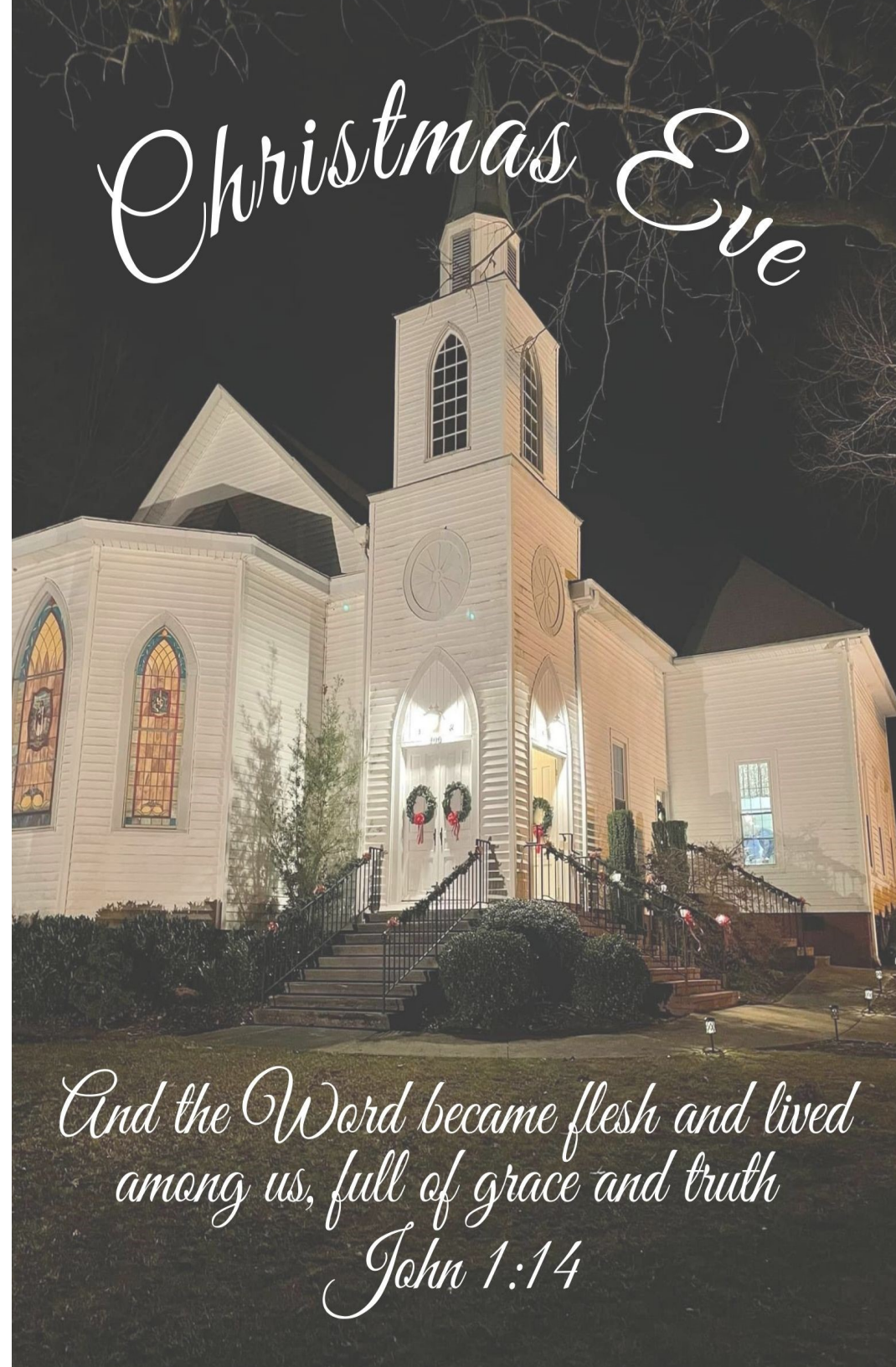
ORGANIST: Nita McMillan

MUSICIANS: Trish McCoy, 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: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Celebrate the coming of the Light.

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, God's salvation is at hand.

People: Celebrate the coming of Salvation.

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

People: Celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Leader: I bring you good news of great joy for all people

People: Celebrate the coming of Christ

***Carol:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful".....No. 41

First Lesson.....Luke 2:1-7

A reading for the candle of Hope

Carol: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus".....No. 2

Second Lesson.....Luke 2: 8-12

A reading for the candle of Peace

Carol: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly".....No. 37

Third Reading.....Luke 2:13-15

A reading for the candle of Joy

Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High".....No. 23

Fourth Reading.....Luke 2:16-18

A reading for the candle of Love

Carol: "Away in a Manger".....No. 25

Fifth Reading:..... Luke 2:19-20

A reading for the Christ Candle

Carol: "Silent Night, Holy Night".....No. 60

Sixth Reading.....John 1:1-14

Message: "Full of Grace and Truth".....Rev. Audrey H. Reese

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: *O Holy Night*.....Beary

Laura Ann Moore, soloist

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)