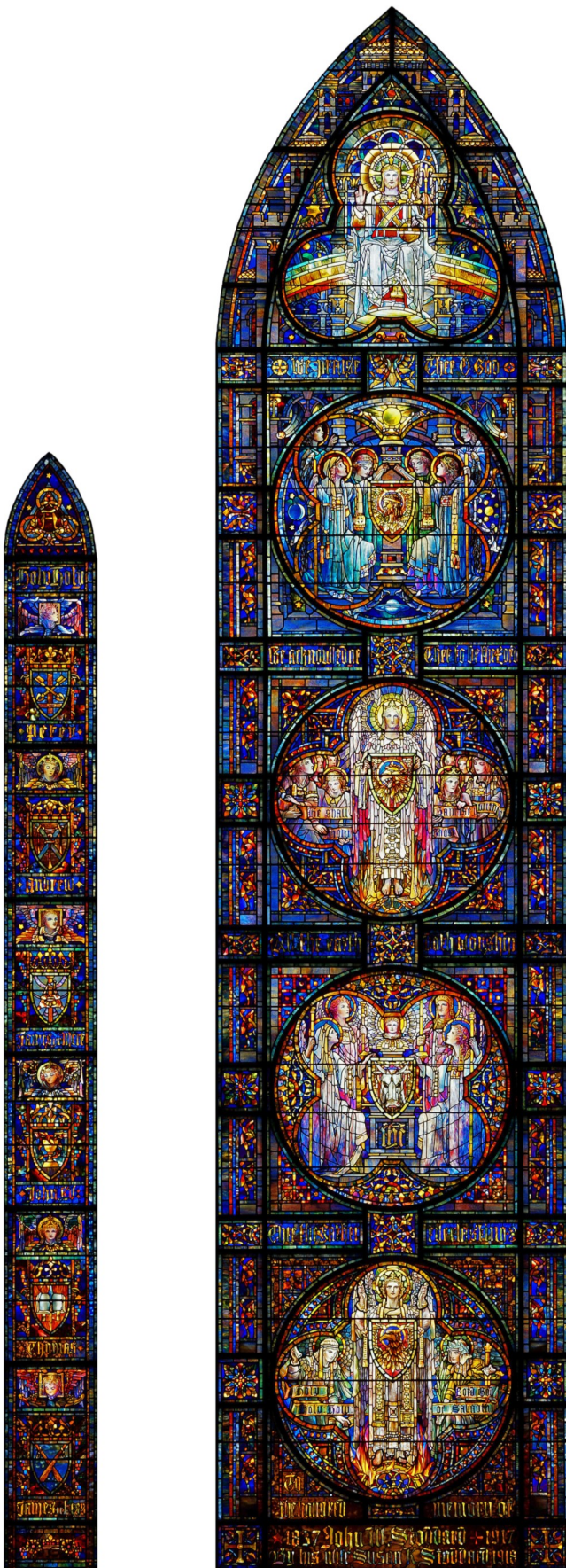


Christmas in the Cathedral



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." —John 8:12

December 24, 2020

Christmas in the Cathedral

*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of
death light has dawned. —Matthew 4:16*

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"

Camille Saint-Saëns, arr. Robert Ward

Christmas Rejoicing

Douglas Wagner

Knox Ringers

Brent Manley, Director

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

German, arr. Wayne Cohn

WELCOME

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker, Jr.

PROCESSIONAL - "Masters in this Hall"

French Melody

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today
Brought from over sea and ever I you pray.

*Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Sing we clear!
Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear:
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we loud!
God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.*

Then to Beth'lem town we went two and two,
And in a sorry place heard the oxen low.

Therein did we see a sweet and goodly May
And a fair old man, upon the straw she lay.

And a little child on her arm had she,
"Wot ye who this is?" said the hinds to me.

Ox and ass him knew, kneeling on their knees;
Wondrous joy had they this little babe to see.

This is Christ the Lord; masters, be ye glad!
Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.

CALL TO WORSHIP IN WORD

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker, Jr.

CAROL – "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Congregation and Choir)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

Adam and Eve are banished from the garden

The Reverend Anna G. Owens

“Sons of Eve, Reward My Tidings”

Spanish, ed. Noah Greenberg

Sons of Eve, reward my tidings!
Why should we make gifts to you?
Born is he the Adam new.
Almighty God, what glad tidings!

Pay my boon, and sing for joy,
For tonight is born our Savior,
The Messiah promised to us,
Man and God, a virgin's boy.
Almighty God, what glad tidings!

By his birth he gives us pardon
For the sin and wrong we do.
Born is he, the Adam new.
Almighty God, what glad tidings!

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham

The Reverend Susan G. Hamilton

“Creator of the Stars”

Plainsong, 9th cent., arr. Michael Burkhardt

Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you, hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night,
You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child
Of Mary, chosen mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One.
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen.

Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-3; 6-9

The prophecy is proclaimed

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

French, arr. Gustav Holst

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,

Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Lord most high!"
Amen.

Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary

The Reverend Anna G. Owens

"What Is This Lovely Fragrance"

French, arr. Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting
Like to the scents of flowers in spring?
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty,
Hear you not heavenly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting
Like to the scents of flowers in spring?

What is this light so fair, so tender
Breaking upon our wondering eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant
Followed his course o'er eastern skies.
What is this light so fair, so tender,
Breaking upon our wondering eyes?

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps;
Seek the Savior born today.
Low at his feet we lay our treasure,
Heart's adoration, love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps;
Seek the Savior born today.

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

French, arr. John A. Ricketts

Sing we now of Christmas, noel sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.
Sing we noel, the King is born, noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we a glad noel.

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
Journey forth to Bethl'hem find the child so blest."
Sing we noel, the King is born, noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we a glad noel.

In Bethlehem they found him, Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger watching the holy child.
Sing we noel, the King is born, noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we a glad noel.

From the eastern country came the kings afar,
Bearing gifts to Bethl'hem guided by a star.
Sing we noel, the King is born, noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we a glad noel.

God and Myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
There was ne'er a stable so like paradise.
Sing we noel, the King is born, noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we a glad noel.

CAROLS (Congregation and Choir)

"The First Nowell"

The First Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

"Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!"

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to the manger

The Reverend Anna G. Owens

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

Going through the hills on a night so starry
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King

John Rutter

Is come to bring us peace on earth,
And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?"
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King
Is come to bring us peace on earth,
And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem."
Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.

"Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?"
"I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o'er Bethlehem."
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King
Is come to bring us peace on earth,
And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,
Is it far to Bethlehem?"
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder,
Born for you at Bethlehem."

Seventh Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

The Wisemen are led by the star to Jesus

The Reverend Susan G. Hamilton

Mary's Lullaby

Marcia Wood, Flutist

John Rutter

See the child that Mary bore
On her lap so softly sleeping
In a stable cold and poor,
Ox and ass their vigil keeping.
Sing lullaby, sing lullaby,
My own dear son, my child.
Lullaby, sing lullaby,
Lullaby, my little baby.

Flights of angels round his head
Sing him joyful hymns of greeting:
"Peace on earth, good will to all."

Each to each the song repeating.
Sing lullaby, sing lullaby,
My own dear son, my child.
Lullaby, sing lullaby,
Lullaby, my little baby.

Shepherds kneeling by his bed
Offer homage without measure;
Wisemen, by a bright star led,
Bring him gifts of richest treasure.
Sing lullaby, sing lullaby,
My own dear son, my child.
Lullaby, sing lullaby,
Lullaby, my little baby.

HOMILY

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker, Jr.

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker, Jr.

CAROLS (Congregation and Choir)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
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.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

"Joy to the World"
Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Eighth Lesson: John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14, 16
John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker, Jr.

HYMN - "Silent Night, Holy Night"
Rachael Boezi, Descant

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

Silent Night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth.

(Congregation and Choir hum the melody)

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"

French, arr. Keith Chapman

*Choral Music: Westminster Choir
The Reverend John W. Neely, Organist-Director*

*Westminster Presbyterian Church:
Where Loving God and Neighbor Is Transforming Lives*

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

The officers and staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church wish you a blessed Christmas and peaceful, health-filled New Year. If you are visiting with us virtually this evening, we hope you will return to worship with us online on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. You may learn more about the work and mission of the church and its various programs by visiting our website, www.westminsterdayton.org.

The white poinsettias beneath the Raphael painting, *Madonna of the Chair*, copied by George L. Phillips, are given in loving memory of Merritt and Dottie Culp by their family .

The large poinsettias in the Chancel vases are given in memory of Robert and Katherine Grannis by Paul and Barbara Grannis and Roberta and Bill Abraham and their families.

The star in the Chancel is a memorial to Allison Stevens (September 23, 1977 - December 8, 1993).

MINISTERS

All members of the Church

STAFF

Richard L. Baker, Jr.....Pastor/Head of Staff
John W. Neely Assoc. Pastor for Music
Nancy S. Hodgkins..... Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Mission
Susan G. Hamilton..... Pastoral Affiliate for Congregational Care
Anna G. Owens Assoc. Pastor for Spiritual Growth
Jenne Gross.....Mission Associate
Brent Manley.....Music Associate

Craig Showalter.....Business Administrator
Amanda Newhart.....Executive Assistant to Dr. Baker
Kate Stephenson..... Administrative Assistant
Brittany Campbell..... Administrative Assistant
Wayne King..... Maintenance Supervisor
George H. McConnel.....Pastor Emeritus



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