

The image features a dark night sky with a large, bright starburst in the upper right corner, surrounded by falling sparks. The lower half of the image is a golden horizon with silhouettes of three camels and riders, and a city skyline on the right. The text "Worship the King" is written in a white, cursive font across the golden horizon.

*Worship the King*

*Christmas Eve*

AT WESTMINSTER

## Prelude Lyrics

### *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior when half-spent was the night. This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

### *Comfort and Joy*

Rest, believer, do not be dismayed. Remember Jesus was born on Christmas Day. He came to save us though we go astray. This is Good News of comfort and joy. God, our Father, made all that is and Christ, our Savior, died that we may live. The Holy Spirit strength and comfort gives. This is Good News of comfort and joy. Good Christian men, rejoice! Now you need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save. Good Christian men, rejoice! He came to save us though we go astray. This is Good News of comfort and joy!

### *Angels' Carol*

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear? Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here? Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven to the humble shepherds who have waited long? Gloria in excelsis, Deo, Gloria in excelsis, Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song. He is come in peace in the winter's stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night; He is come in joy like the sun at morning filling all the world with radiance and with light. He is come in love as the child of Mary; in a simple stable, we have seen his birth. Gloria in excelsis, Deo, Gloria in excelsis, Deo! Hear the angels singing Peace on Earth. He will bring new light to a world in darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above; he will bring new hope to the waiting nations when he comes to reign in purity and love. Let the Earth rejoice at the Savior's coming; let the Heavens answer with the joyful mourn: Gloria in excelsis, Deo, Gloria in excelsis, Deo! Hear the angels singing, 'Christ is born.'

### *In the Bleak Midwinter*

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone: snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air, but only his mother, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the Beloved with a kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.



**Lesson 2**

LESSON: Luke 1:41–46

*Elizabeth and Mary rejoice together*

ANTHEM

*Still, Still, Still*

arr. R. Hobby

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, holy star its vigil keeping...Gloria in excelsis Deo. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you...Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber....

Sanctuary Choir

**HYMN 229 \***

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPEST ADEST FLORIDUM

**Lesson 3**

LESSON: Matthew 2:1–12

*Magi from the East follow the star to worship Jesus*

**HYMN 213 \***

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

**The Presentation of Gifts**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*There Shall a Star  
from Jacob Come Forth*

F. Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a scepter from Israel rise up....And dash in pieces princes and nations....How brightly beams the morning star with sudden radiance from afar with light and comfort glowing! Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, oh praise such love o'er flowing! (Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2:9)

Sanctuary Choir

EVENING PRAYER

Rev. Matt Collins

**The Message**

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:6–7 (Pew Bible Page 573)

SERMON

***The Birth of the King***

Dr. Chris Walker

## The Response

**HYMN 210 \***

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

*The congregation will remain seated during the candlelighting. To receive the light as it is passed, tilt your unlit candlewick into the flame. Once lit, keep your candle completely upright, even in the moments after extinguishing to avoid dripping wax. At the conclusion of Silent Night, carefully extinguish your candle as the pastor extinguishes his.*

***The choir will sing Stanza 1 in the original German, accompanied by guitar. When invited by the conductor, the congregation will join in singing Stanzas 1–4 in English.***

1. 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.
2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. 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.
4. Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

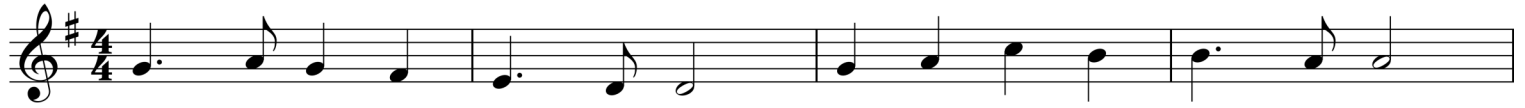
*At the end of the service, please return your candles to the baskets found at each door.*

BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**HYMN \***

*See, amid the Winter's Snow*

SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW



*Choir:* 1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low;  
All: 2. Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was thine,  
All: 3. Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, By thy face so meek and mild,

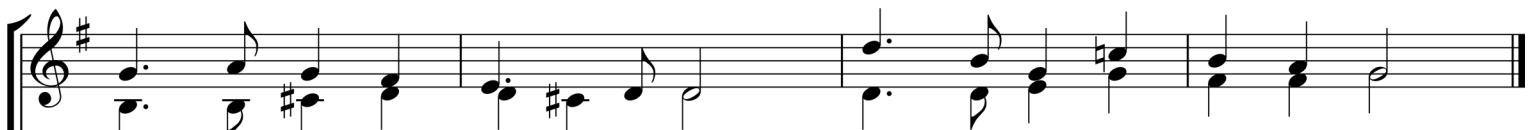


See the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, Pro - mis'd from e - ter - nal years;  
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble thee, In thy sweet hu - mi - li - ty:

**REFRAIN**



All: Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.



**POSTLUDE**

*Variations on a Noel: X. Fugato & Presto*

M. Dupré

\* Worshipers, please stand if physically able.

## **At This Evening's Service:**

**Organist:** Frank Dodd

**Prelude Musicians:** Kara Hartman, *soprano*; Frank Dodd, *piano*; Ross Ellison, *organ*

**Sanctuary Choir:** Floyd Rawleigh, *director*

**Musicians for *Silent Night*:**

Tony McWilliams, Hudson Rogers, Allyson Caddick, *guitars*; Beth Peazzoni, *piano*

**Candlelighters:** Senior High Youth; Nancy Kuch, *director*; Jillian Rogers, *assistant*

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## **WELCOME VISITORS**

Thank you for being with us to worship our Savior this evening. If you are a newcomer or a guest, we especially welcome you and hope you will sense God's presence among us. If you do not regularly attend a church, we invite you to come to our Sunday services. We worship at 8 and 11 each Sunday morning, and most Sunday evenings at 6.

The message of Christmas is that God came to earth in the form of a man—Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus grew up not only to become the greatest teacher and miracle worker of all time, but to die a very unique death. In that death he was not the victim of evil men. Jesus willingly gave up his life and died on the cross so that he could pay the penalty for our sins.

The story does not end with Jesus' death—he also rose from the dead and demonstrated that he is God. And the story continues even further when we consciously believe that Jesus died for our sins. When we accept the forgiveness he offers, we receive Jesus' promise of eternal life.

If you would like to know your sins are forgiven, if you would like to be at peace with God, if you would like to have eternal life, tell Jesus you are a sinner and you need his forgiveness. Ask him to come into your life to be your Savior and Lord. Then read the Bible to learn how to live as a Christian, talk to God (and listen) daily in prayer, and get involved in a Bible-teaching church where you can find other followers of Jesus and grow in your Christian faith. We suggest beginning your Bible reading in the Gospel of John.

Please feel free to ask us for help if you have any questions about what it means to be a Christian. One of our pastors or other leaders will be happy to talk and pray with you. Just contact the church office (717.569.2151, [office@westpca.com](mailto:office@westpca.com)).

***May you have a truly joyous Christmas and New Year!***

## **Christmas Offering:**

**Session has designated the 2023 Christmas offering** be split equally between Korah Kids School, recently renamed Bridge School, where missionary Molly De Bruin serves in a community located in a trash dump in Ethiopia, and a partnering seminary's highly sensitive "Project M," which will enable believers in a closed country to receive theological training. Use the "Christmas Offering" envelope, mark a gold pew envelope "Christmas," or give online at [westpca.com/give](http://westpca.com/give).

## **Pastoral Staff**

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