



**WESTMINSTER**  
Presbyterian Church

# ADVENT

## *Upcoming Events & Services*

### **Together in Grief**

December 18th at 7:00pm

*A worship service of healing.*

### **Christmas Eve Pageant**

December 24th at 5:00pm

*A family pageant for everyone, young and old. Parts for every child – no rehearsal required!*

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

December 24th at 8:00pm

*Welcome the Christ Child with candlelight, communion, and carols.*

101 Colville Road  
Charlotte, NC 28207  
704.376.0751

[www.westminstercharlotte.org](http://www.westminstercharlotte.org)



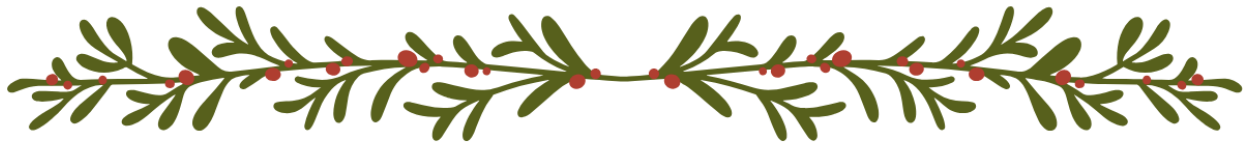
WESTMINSTER  
Presbyterian Church

# CHRISTMAS

## *Lessons & Carols Service*

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December 14th, 2025 at 5:00pm



101 Colville Road  
Charlotte, NC 28207  
704.376.0751  
[www.westminstercharlotte.org](http://www.westminstercharlotte.org)





## BENEDICTION

Rev. Owen Stepp

## POSTLUDE

**Please Remain Standing During Postlude**

*from Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248, "Nun seid ihr wohl gerochen"*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Brass Act*

## SENDING MUSIC

**The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns**

David N. Johnson

# CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

## *Musicians*

Sara Terrell, Director of Worship and Music

### **CHANCEL CHOIR**

**Sopranos:** Rachel Abbatiello, Courtney Allison, Leslie Austin, Mary Ann Hollinger, Mary Lathem, Elizabeth Van Bruggen, Amanda Williams

**Altos:** Dee Bessey, Nancy Brown, Joy Eakley, Margrette Godwin, Runetta Lanier, Leigh Moran, Alexandra Sims

**Tenors:** Parkes Dibble, Justin Gray, Bill Mann, Kevin Proffit

**Basses:** John Barringer, Chip Buchanan, Scott McClintock, Jarvis Miller, Arthur Tyler, Jarret Ward, Duane Westfall

### **SOLOISTS**

Sequina DuBose  
Eliza Kunkle

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Julie Babb, Interim Director of Children's Ministry

### **INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Catherine Hicks, organ and piano  
Isaac Chen, piano  
Lucy Murray, violin  
Eric Moore, Diana Palacek, Jamie Turnage, Nancy White; handbells

### **BRASS ACT**

Whit Blount, trumpet  
Craig Retzlaff, trumpet  
Keelan Lovvorn, horn  
Paul Smit, trombone  
Geof Whitehead, tuba

### **THE HOLIDAY TRIO**

Judith Porter, piano  
Jeff Holland, bass  
Scott McLaughlin, drums

***Please join us downstairs in Beard Hall for refreshments  
and more carols from The Holiday Trio!***

# Closing Carol

All Please Stand

Beautiful Savior

CRUSADER'S HYMN

Arr. Terje Kvam

Choir and Congregation

**CHOIR** 1. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, king of cre - a - tion,  
**CHOIR** 2. Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
**CONG. MELODY** 3. Ah,  
**CONG. PARTS** 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
bright the spark - ling stars on high;  
ah,  
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
ah,  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
ah,  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

# CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

## *Order of Service*

### GATHERING MUSIC

**Angels We Have Heard on High** arr. Dale Wood

**Il est né, le divin enfant** arr. Dale Wood

**Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying, BWV 645** Johann Sebastian Bach

Catherine Hicks, organ

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### MUSICAL INTROIT

*Christmas Concerto*

Arcangelo Corelli

*Brass Act Quintet*

*Of The Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

arr. Christopher Aspaas

*Choir and Handbells*

Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega;  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven adore him.  
Angel hosts, his praises sing.  
Powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent;  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!

*Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century*

# WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

Rev. Owen Stepp

## PROCESSIONAL CAROL

**All Please Stand**

***Once in Royal David's City***

**IRBY**

Arr. Sir David Willcocks  
*Choir and Congregation*

SOLO

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild. Jesus Christ her little child.

CHOIR

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all.  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

CONGREGATION

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in all our gladness.

CONGREGATION

And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

CONGREGATION

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

*Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848*

# THE NINTH LESSON

*John 1:1-14*

Rev. Leighton Ford

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.*

***The Word Was God***

Rosephanye Powell

*Choir*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
And the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God.

By Him, all things were made that have been made.  
Nothing was made He has not made.  
All things were made by Him.

**SENDING PRAYER**

Tamara Park Walters



# THE EIGHTH LESSON

## *Matthew 2:1-12*

Dr. Dennis Hollinger

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

### ***In the Bleak Midwinter***

**CRANHAM**

Arr. Will Todd

*Sequina DuBose, The Holiday Trio,  
and Congregation*

#### CONGREGATION

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.

#### SOLO

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.

#### SOLO

Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay:  
Enough for him whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

#### SOLO

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.

#### CONGREGATION

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.

# BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Leslie S. Dibble

*Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare our hearts and minds, so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem God's waiting people.*

*Let us rejoice in our carols and hymns, that the loving purposes of God are being fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ longs to bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.*

*But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world that God loves so very much; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for those who walk in darkness; for the poor and the helpless; the hungry and oppressed; for the sick and those who mourn; and for the lonely and the unloved. May they be comforted and sure in the knowledge that God's love for them is never ending.*

*We pray for the world... (silent prayer)*

*Let us pray for those who have not heard the Good News of the Gospel, or do not believe it, that their eyes and hearts may be opened to the movement of the Holy Spirit, and their lives forever changed with the joy that comes with believing.*

*We pray for those who do not believe...(silent prayer)*

*Let us pray for the peace, unity and purity of the Church for which Christ died; may it be freed from all evil and fear and may the church in this place and everywhere lift up the light of the love of God.*

*We pray for the Church...(silent prayer)*

*These prayers we humbly offer to You, O GOD in the words that Jesus taught us to pray saying:*

***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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN.***

# THE FIRST LESSON

## *Genesis 3:8-19*

Rev. Dr. Leslie S. Dibble

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise,  
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

### ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

**HYFRYDOL**

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Chancel Choir*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley, 1744*

# THE SECOND LESSON

## *Genesis 22:15-18*

Angel Ojeda

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

### ***Like Sand, Like Stars***

**Sara Terrell**

*Children's Choir*

"Like sand, like stars," God said to Abraham,  
"Upon the earth your children shall be,"  
And Abraham believed.

"All people blessed," God said to Abraham,  
"By My covenant, all people set free."  
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!

# THE SEVENTH LESSON

*Luke 2:8-16*

Brenda Ward

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

## ***Christmas Cantata (Sinfonia Sacra)***

Daniel Pinkham

*Choir and Brass Act*

### **I.**

Quem vidistis,  
pastores, dicite,  
annunciate nobis,  
in terris quis apparuit?  
Natum vidimus  
et choros angelorum  
collaudantes Dominum.  
Alleluia.

### **II.**

O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent  
Dominum natum,  
jacentem in praeseptio!  
Beata Virgo,  
cujus viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Christum.

### **III.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Et in terra pax  
hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Jubilate Deo, omnis terra;  
servite Domino in laetitia.

Introite in conspectu  
ejus in exultatione.

Scitote quoniam  
Dominus ipse est Deus;  
ipse fecit nos,  
et non ipsi nos.

### **I.**

Whom do you see?  
Shepherds, tell us!  
Proclaim to us:  
who has appeared on earth?  
We saw the new-born child  
and choirs of angels  
praising the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### **II.**

O great mystery,  
and wondrous sacrament,  
that animals should see  
the new-born Lord  
lying in their manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin  
whose womb was worthy  
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **III.**

Glory to God in the highest.  
And on earth peace  
to men of good will.

Sing joyfully to God, all ye lands;  
serve the Lord with gladness.

Enter into His presence  
with great joy.

Know that  
the Lord alone is God;  
He has made us,  
and not we ourselves.

# THE SIXTH LESSON

## *Luke 2:1-7*

Jack Moody and Johanna Van Bruggen

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**All Please Stand**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**ADESTE FIDELIS**

Arr. Sir David Willcocks

*Choir and Congregation*

### CONGREGATION

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!

### CHOIR

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

### CONGREGATION

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n 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!

### CONGREGATION

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

“A Lamb I give,” God said to Abraham,  
“My Son for yours, My Son for all.”  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Like sand, like stars, rejoice!

## THE THIRD LESSON

### *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Dan Owen

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

### **Sound Over All Waters**

Paul Halley  
Sequina DuBose  
and The Holiday Trio

Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands  
the chorus of voices, the clasping of hands.  
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,  
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born;  
With glad jubilations bring hope to the nations:

The dark night is ending, and dawn has begun!  
Arise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun!  
All speech flows to music, all hearts beat as one!  
The dark, dark night is ending, and dawn has begun!

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace,  
East, west, north, and south, let the long quarrels cease.  
Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,  
Sing of glory to God, and of goodwill to man.  
Joining in chorus, the heavens bend o'er us:

The dark night is ending, and dawn has begun!  
Arise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun!  
All speech flows to music, all hearts beat as one!  
The dark, dark night is ending, and dawn has begun!

*John Greenleaf Whittier, 1873*

# THE FOURTH LESSON

## *Isaiah 11:1-9*

Tania Mapes

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

### ***My Lord, What a Mornin'***

BURLEIGH

*Sequina DuBose and*

*The Holiday Trio*

My Lord, what a mornin';  
My Lord, what a mornin';  
Oh, my Lord, what a mornin',  
When the stars begin to fall,  
When the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the trumpet sound,  
To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand,  
When the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the sinner cry,  
To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand,  
When the stars begin to fall.

Done quit all my worldly ways,  
Join that heavenly band.  
Done quit all my worldly ways,  
Join that heavenly band, oh,

You'll hear the Christian shout,  
To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand,  
When the stars begin to fall.

*African-American spiritual*

# THE FIFTH LESSON

*Luke 1:26-35*

Roland Simmons

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

## ***Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth***

Colin Britt

*Ensemble*

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
Let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to all displayed.

The virgin womb that burden gained with virgin honor all unstained;  
The banners there of virtue glow; God in his temple dwells below.

Forth from God's chamber goeth he, that royal home of purity,  
A giant in two-fold substance one, rejoicing now God's course to run.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breath a newer light,  
Where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Ambrose of Milan, c. 397*