



First Presbyterian Church

"We love because God first loved us."  
1 John 4:19

WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1684 IOWA ST. | DUBUQUE, IA

2155 UNIVERSITY AVE | DUBUQUE, IA



## December 24, 2024 | Christmas Eve Worship, 7 pm

**Welcome!** If you are a guest, please fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would love to greet you by name.

**Please feel free to use the pillow cushions** placed above the coat racks at the back of the church if it is difficult for you to sit in our hard pews.

### Candlelight Lessons & Carols



## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. Pethel

### FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

This is a night for treasuring and pondering the gift and mystery of Christ's incarnation. In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

### \*CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Liz, Theia and Winnie Tyler

ONE: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?  
Where do we start?

**ALL: Let us begin with hope.**

*A candle is lit.*

**Let us begin with peace.**

*A candle is lit.*

**Let us begin with joy.**

*A candle is lit.*

**Let us begin with love.**

*A candle is lit.*

ONE: Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name. Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle.

*A candle is lit.*

For surely God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near.

Surely love knows our name.

**ALL: May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born.**

**A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**Glory to God in the highest heaven!**

### \*CAROL #182 vs.1-2

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

### FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation*

### CAROL #180 vs.1-2, 4

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

### SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

### THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah*

### CAROL #191

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

## FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child*

\*CAROL #185 vs. 1 & 3

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Away in a Manger*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*While by the Sheep We Watched at Night*

## SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah*

\*CAROL #188 vs. 1 & 3

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

## \*SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-8,14 (CEV) *read responsively*

*The Word of God, Jesus Christ, becomes flesh and lives among us*

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word.

**The Word was with God and was truly God.**

And with this Word, God created all things.

Nothing was made without the Word.

**Everything that was created received its life from him,  
and his life gave light to everyone.**

The light keeps shining in the dark,

and darkness has never put it out.

**The Word became a human being and lived here with us.**

We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father.

**From him the complete gifts of undeserved grace and truth have come down to us.**

## THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*O Holy Night*

\*CAROL #196 v. 4

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

As we share the light of Christ with one another tonight, a reminder to turn your unlit candle toward the person holding the shingling light upright. We will raise our lights during the final verse of silent night.

\*CAROL #186

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

Still Nacht

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*

arr. West

\* You are welcome to stand in body or spirit.



**THE OFFICES ARE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK. Pastor Stephanie will be on vacation thru Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.** For emergency pastoral care needs, you may contact the Rev. Marsha Wilfong at (563) 583-6571.

**WORSHIP LOCATION & OFFERING:** Worship will be held next week at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** and will continue to be held there **through March**. The Sessions of both congregations have approved this in order to provide for optimal safety and ease during the coldest weather months. **Today, the offering collected will be contributed to People in Need.** PIN provides rent, mortgage, and utility assistance on an emergency basis in the Dubuque area.

**WEATHER BAD? IS CHURCH CANCELED?** If inclement weather exists, **Sunday morning worship** may be canceled. Such a decision will be made no later than 7am Sunday morning and will be posted on the WPC and FPC website and emailed to both congregations. If Sunday morning worship is canceled, there will be **no** Sunday evening activities. **During the week**, we follow the Dubuque Community Schools closings and/or delays. *Please be diligent in planning for winter weather circumstances.*



**Preacher:** Rev. Stephanie Ells

**Readers:** Laura Barrett, Merrill Crawford, Susan Ebertz, Jolene Kilcoyne, Glinda Manternach, Rev. Timothy Slemmons

**Living Nativity:** Adam, Tarra & Eden Etheredge

**Musicians:** Kristen Eby, Alex Eby, Hannah Eby, John Eby, Steve Peake, Mark Ward

**Streaming Team:** Mark Stant and Tom Boelk