



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

4900 Kaplan Drive

Raleigh, NC 27606

919-851-4713

www.wbpresbyterian.org

December 20, 2020

10:30 AM

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Norman Dello Joio

Tonya Kirk and Elizabeth Davis, piano duet

Welcome

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

Make a Joyful noise, all the earth!

Break forth into joyful song.

With sounds of instruments and voices, we will praise the God of all creation.

Floods will cease, the hills will sing! God is here!

Prayer of the Day

Advent Candle Lighting

The Whitehurst Family

Candle Lighting Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Opening Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

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.

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.

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

Prayer of Confession

God, through the prophets, faithful leaders and teachers in Christ's Church you have given us your Word to instruct us in ways to live, but Lord, we have chosen too often to go our own way. Christ forgive our unwillingness to follow you and be light to the world. Open our ears, minds and hearts now to hear your words, the story of your great love for us, of your coming into the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

Carol

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Susan Cummings, flute

arr. John Purifoy

Third Lesson

Luke 1:26–35, 38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God.

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Carol

The First Nowell

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 keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell: Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell: Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heav’n and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell: Born is the King of Israel!

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

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

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there,

the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Carol

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Robert MacGimsey

Joe Sturdivant, solo

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

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

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Carol

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

arr. David Cherwien

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the

one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Offering (See options for giving at the end of the bulletin)

Offertory Response *We Three Kings of Orient Are* arr. Robert Vandall
Tonya Kirk and Elizabeth Davis, piano duet

Seventh Lesson *John 1:1-14*

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all

things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Christ, we pray as you taught your disciples by 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Carol

"Fantasia on Joy to the World"

arr. Robert Vandall

Tonya Kirk and Elizabeth Davis, piano duet

Charge and Blessing



POINSETTIA OFFERING

Some of the poinsettias in the sanctuary were given in honor or memory of loved ones.

Judy and Larry Shelton gave in honor of their children and grandchildren: Evan and Chad Barnette, Graham Shelton and Joyce Palmese, and Madison and Crosby Barnette. They also gave in memory of their parents and Judy's sister: Ann and Ike Shelton, Edith and Richard Shearin, and Susan Shearin.

Denise Weeks and Henry Burke gave in honor of Marjorie Burke Honeycutt. They also gave in memory of their parents: Winnifred and Mack Weeks, and Paul Burke. They also gave in memory of Betsy and Lillian Roberts.

The lighted holy tree by the nativity on the church grounds was given in memory of Dottie DuBose-Blum's family.

OFFERING OPTIONS

By Check:

Mail to: Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church 4900 Kaplan Drive Raleigh, NC 2760

Give On-line:

Go to <https://wbpresbyterian.com/>

Open the pull down menu on the top left and click "GIVE".

From here you can register and enter your gift amount, the designated fund and frequency of giving.

By Text:

To give via text, send WBPC to the phone number 73256. You'll receive a text message in response with your next steps. After you

give one time, your payment method is saved, so you can quickly give again from your phone.

Announcements

- 2021 GIVING ENVELOPES – Please email Amy (amy@wbpresbyterian.org) if you would like a box of 2021 giving envelopes. They will be available at the end of the year in the education building outside of Jonathan's office, but will only be prepared for those that convey what they would like and plan to use them. Thank you for helping out with your communication on this!
- 2021 BUDGET CAMPAIGN UPDATE – For 2021 our pledge budget goal is \$419,506.00. As of this past Sunday (12-6-20) we have received 59 pledges (out of a potential 100 pledges) in the amount of \$272,969.00. This represents 65.07% of the proposed pledge budget. Last year, as of the fifth Sunday we had received 82 pledges which totaled \$359,184.00. If you have not received a pledge card, please contact the church office.

Joys and Concerns

Prayer Requests

If you wish to make a prayer request, call or email your request to Amy by Tuesday. amy@wbpresbyterian.org – Type "Prayer Request" in the subject line. Please be specific and concise.

Pastoral Concerns

- For Peggy Stevens, who is recovering at home after a hospitalization.
- For Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church, members and friends, the session, teachers and church leaders. Pray for our nation and all nations.
- For Ella McNeill, who is now in hospice care in heart and kidney failure.
- For the Family of Eleanor Sykes, who passed away at the age of 97. Eleanor was a long-time member of Western Boulevard.
- Sympathy extended to friends and family of Dottie DuBose-Blum who passed away December 4.

Worship Leaders:

Jonathan Barker, Interim Pastor;

Robert Owens, Liturgist;

Elizabeth Davis, Director of Music;

Video Editing: Evelyn Earnhardt

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Whitehurst Family

Music: Members of the Chancel Choir; Tonya Kirk, pianist

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We live to share God's love for ALL.