

The logo features a stylized blue and red flame-like symbol with a yellow flame at the top.

# WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT



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**Sunday, December 24, 2024**

**5:00PM**

**Christmas Eve**

**WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

Christmas Concerto  
Bobbi Adams, Violin; Carol Tallieu, Flute

Arcangelo Corelli

*Welcome to all – especially to our guests.*

*Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad, located in each of the pews.*

*Hymns labeled GTG are in the Glory to God Hymnal (purple)*

*Hymns labeled AAHH are in the African American Heritage Hymnal (beige)*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son. This Son, God has willed Him to be Ruler and Lord over all things. This Son, is our Creator, Provider, and Savior.

**Come let us worship and adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

This Son, Jesus Christ, was born to humble Mary on this night of nights. While the world lay sleeping, the King of Kings entered the world in humility and grace. He was worshipped by angels, shepherds, and kings from far off.

**Come let us worship and adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

This Son, our Savior, was not numbered among the powerful or the rich. He is not of noble birth. Great God Almighty came to us, as one of us, so that we might know His grace and love. His name is Jesus Christ. He was worshipped by angels, shepherds, and kings from far off.

**Come let us worship and adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,  
and set lights in the sky-sun and moon and stars.  
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.  
By these stars, they knew God was with them.

**In the beginning, too, was the Word.  
And the Word, too, has come down from heaven to earth.  
By the Word made flesh, Christ our Savior,  
We know that God is with us.**

Tonight we light five candles to bring the fire of the stars  
down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle Hope.  
We name this candle Peace.  
We name this candle Joy.  
We name this candle Love.  
We name this candle Christ.

**Our lives are a journey, and we do not always know the way.  
But we chart our path by the star of Christ.  
Even when faith burns low  
and its promises seem too good to be true,  
we set our face steadily towards the light.**

Listen to ancient words come true anew this night:  
"The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness-  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9: 2,6)

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of Christ's presence this week,  
help us to become the signs of Christ's presence that others are searching for.  
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,  
help us be a glimpse of heaven on earth.  
Help us to shine like stars in the world. **Amen.**

**\*Carol GTG #133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Anthem**

Seeking for Me  
Gospel Choir

**First Lesson**

Luke 2:1-7

**Anthem**

The Snow Lay on the Ground  
Chancel Choir

John Carter

**Second Lesson**

Luke 2:8-20

**\*Carol GTG#113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Third Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**Anthem**

For God So Loved the World  
Gospel Choir

**Meditation**

**\*Carol GTG#134**

Joy to the World

**Offering of Our Gifts**

**Offertory**

He Came Here for Me  
Chancel Choir

Ron Nelson

## **Litany for Christmas Eve**

The grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

For a child has been born for us,  
A Son has been given to us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

To us is born in the city of David  
A Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

And the Word became flesh  
and lived among us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!

**Glory to God in the highest!**

**O earth, sing to the Lord! Amen.**

## **Candle Lighting**

*Choir members will move to the outside aisles to light the congregation's candles. Please pass the flame toward the center aisle, as a symbol of God's light being shared, and spreading through the world.*

## **Closing Carol GTG#122**

Silent Night

*sung seated*

*lyrics on the last page of the bulletin*

## **Prayer of Adoration**

## **\*Benediction and Blessing**

### **Postlude**

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Wilbur Held

*The organ postlude is offered as an instrumental prayer. You are invited to remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly, remembering those who are still worshiping.*

### **Worship Leaders:**

The Rev. Dakota Whitaker, Pastor/Head of Staff

Dalos Grobe, Chancel Choir Director/Organist

Victor Boyd, Gospel Choir Director

George Getschman, Liturgist

Peyton Friday, Deven Humphreys, Acolytes

Visit our website at [www.wcodetroit.org](http://www.wcodetroit.org) for the link to view our Sunday morning worship services on YouTube or follow us on Instagram and Facebook.



## **Today's Anthems**

### **Seeking For Me**

Jesus my savior from Bethlehem came, He was born in a manger to sorrow and shame, Oh it was wonderful blest be His name, He came seeking for me, for me. Then Jesus my savior the same as of old; while I was wandering far from the fold, gently and earnestly He pled with my soul, He came seeking for me for me. Jesus my savior; mercy and love, came from the mansions of heaven above, oh it was wonderful blest be His name, He came seeking for me, for me. Seeking for me.

### **The Snow Lay on the Ground**

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shown bright, when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night. *Venite adoremus Dominum.* 'Twas Mary, daughter pure, of holy Anne, that brought into the World the God mad man. She laid him in a stall in Bethlehem; the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. *Venite...* Saint Joseph,



too, was by to tend the child; to guard him and protect his mother mild; the angels hovered round and sang this song, *Venite...* And thus that manger poor became a throne; for he whom Mary bore was God the Son. O come, then, let us join the heaven'ly host; to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Venite adoremus Dominum.*

### For God So Loved The World

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but they shall have everlasting life.

Verse: God could have chosen to never love again; fallen men could go His way and die in his sin. But God in His compassion said I'll pay redemption's price, so He took on the form of man and became the perfect sacrifice. If riches could've paid the debt, then God could have sold all the walls of jasper and the streets of purest Gold. But He knew the price of one lost soul was more than wealth could buy and if redemption was ever bought only love could satisfy.

### He Came Here for Me

Born in a stable, He came here for me. Born of a Virgin, He came here for me. God's only Son, come to set the world free. Born of God's Love, and He came here for me. Savior of the world, I praise Thee. Jesus, Lamb of God, I pray to Thee. Hear me, as I praise Thy birth. Bend down Thine ear and hear my prayer. Over the stable a star shone so bright, guiding three wise men who rode through the night. He was called Baby Jesus, He came here for me. Born to this world, then He died here for me.

**New to Westminster Church of Detroit?** We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship, and we would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Please sign the Friendship Pad which can be found in each pew rack. Sign it then pass it down to others sitting in your pew.

## **Westminster Church of Detroit News and Events**

### **Staff Appreciation Offering**

Our Church staff is the heartbeat of our work at Westminster. This Christmas season, we are taking up a special offering to show our appreciation and gratitude for them. If you'd like to contribute, please earmark your online or in person offering for "Staff Appreciation".

### **Christmas Poinsettias 2024**

**Bobbi Adams, Carol and Leo Tallieu**

In memory of Ken and Ethel Adams.

**Merlton and Patricia Brandenburg**

In honor of Mrs. Ruth Betty.

In memory of Leory and Jeanette Brandenburg, Doyle Betty,  
and Talana Brandenburg.

**Lynn Burdell**

In memory of Carita I. Sledge and Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Ingram, Sr.

**Rodney and Katora Cole**

In honor of our dear parents, Wallace and Dorothy Cole, in celebration  
of their 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

**Wallace and Dorothy Cole**

In honor of Rodney, Katora, Imani, R.J., Giselle, Ellington and Jalen for  
the happiness they bring into our family.

In memory of our parents, Isreal and Lillie Gist, Joe Lee Cole and  
Charlotte Martin and our siblings.

**Deborah Fair**

In honor of Dorn Fair.

In memory of Margaret and Walter Crump.

**Brenda Fields**

In memory of Orange Fields, Jordan John Fields, John and Lou Ethel Lawson,  
Marcus and Annie Bell Fields.

**Adrian and Janene Gaines**

In memory of our parents, George and Valerie Gray.

**Jacob Gaines**

In memory of my grandparents, George and Valerie Gray.

**Elizabeth Galloway**

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Randles, Eleanor Loving and Lauri Hurd

**George and Kristen Getschman**

In honor of our grandchildren, Bennett and Penelope.

In memory of Geroge and Ann Getschman, and Bill Johnson.

**Irene Gough**

In honor of Matthew Gough Family.

In memory of Lois Riches (mother), Myra Woodhull (grandmother),  
and Olive Manuel (aunt).

**Veronica Gray**

In memory of my parents George and Valerie Gray.



**Dalos Grobe**

In memory of Dalos H. and Violette W. Grobe.

**Lillie Hall**

**Victor and Janette Jackson**

In memory of Jamez R. James (son) and McKinley James (grandfather of Jamez James).

**Dolly Johnson**

In honor of my children and their families.

In memory of Bill Johnson.

**Valerie Johnson**

**Bennie Latimer**

In memory of Vivian O. Phillips and Albert J. Latimer.

**Eddie and Cynthia (Cistrunk) Norris**

In memory of Paul and Will Mae Norris, James Henry Norris, James Sr. and Rodgerine Cistrunk, James Bernard Cistrunk Jr., Jacqueline Cistrunk-Barnes, Thomas Roynell Cistrunk, Lawrence Wade, Shirley Ludke, Catherine Esannason, Rose Mary White – Wiggins, Doris Greer.

**Dr. & Mrs. Francis and Keziah Okoro**

In memory of Pa Israel and Charity Iheonwe, Pa Joseph and Sussana Okoro, Chinonyerem Noela Nwanyanwu, and Dr. Chidi Anyanwu.

**Dianne H. Phillips and Kathy Kowalski**

In honor of Doris Kowalski.

In memory of H. Richard Phillips, Paul and Peter, Marcia and Don, Natalie and Keith Witmer, Sharon DeWolfe, Dan Kowalski Sr., and Ray Pace.

**Charlyss Ray**

In memory of Suzann Ray, Jessica (Ray) DesJardins, Georgia Thompson.

**Cecil Rice**

In memory of Iris D. Rice and Pearl Hart.

**Glenn Sims and Denita Bank-Sims**

In memory of Marlene Sims.

**Carol and Leo Tallieu**

In memory of Leo and Marie Tallieu.

**Kimberly Wells and Turner Thompson III**

In memory of Artheillia Thompson and Leslie Pritchett.

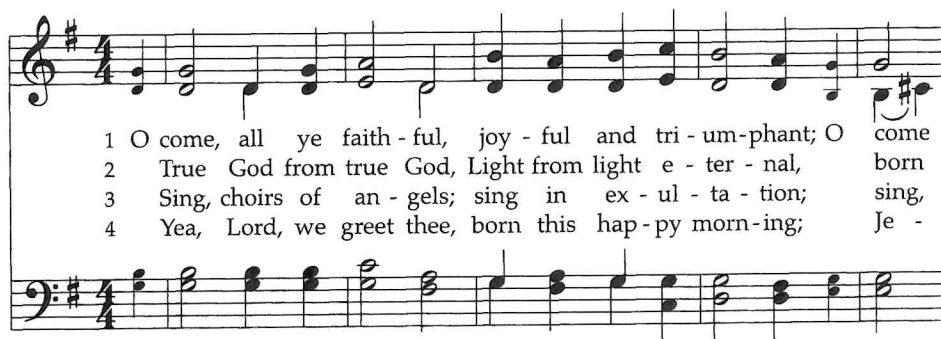
**JoAnne White**

In honor of Thanksgiving staff and volunteers, Rev. Dakota Whitaker and family, WCOD staff and volunteers, Camp Westminster staff and volunteers.

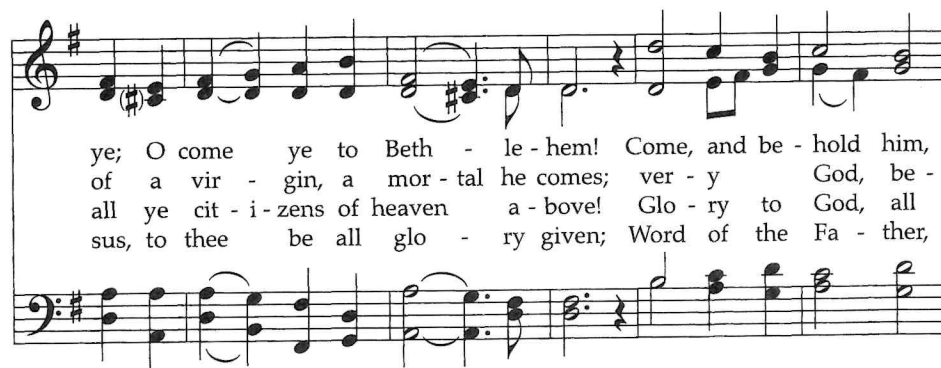
In memory of Roma Stark, Dottie Porter, MD.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

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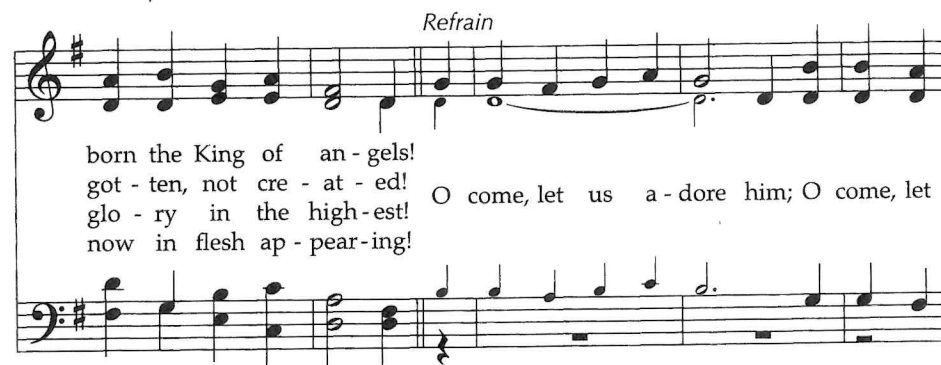


1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*



born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.



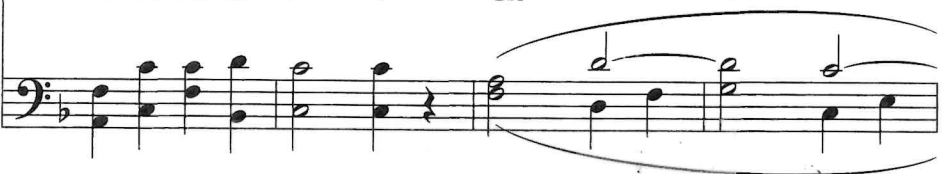
Refrain



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



134

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;



'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our



mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

