CHRISTMAS EVE at Westwood Church

Candlelight Worship 2023 - 5pm



2

Prelude Music

No. I "Psallite" Altes Weihnachtslied (Old Christmas Song) from Weihnachtsbaum (Christmas Tree Suite)

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Draw tua Bethlehem

Meirion Wynn Jones (b. 1972); text by W. Rhys Nicholas (1914-1996)

Above the earth evening's shadows fall, But there remains the light of one lovely Star; Above the earth the heavenly host Joyfully proclaims His coming.

In the city the houses are full, The lowly abide in the animals' home; In the city are Mary and Joseph, And their little baby, Jesus, on a bed of hay.

On the mountainside the evening is mild, Sheep with their lambs quietly graze, On the mountainside the shepherds with wonder Hear the angels' news.

Over the sand dunes travellers come, Following the Star on their journey; Over the sand dunes camels bear kings Travelling to sing His praise.

In Bethlehem dawn breaks, The morning of praise has come; In Bethlehem the heavenly host gathers To witness and worship the Saviour of the world.

Jesu, Son Most Sweet and Dear **Chancel Choir** Colin Brumby (b. 1933); arr. Jackson Berkey (b. 1942) Sabrina Langlois, soloist

lesu, son most sweet and dear, Mean the bed you lie on here, And that afflicts me sore, For your cradle's like a bier, Ox and ass are with you here, And I must weep therefore.

lesu, sweet one, show no wrath. I have not the poorest cloth To wrap you in its fold. Not a rag in which to wrap, Hold you safe upon my lap, And shield you from the cold.

Silent Night arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003) Alison Bjorkedal, harp Josh Roebuck, organ

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Order of Service

Sanctuary Quartet

Josh Tan

piano

Christopher Carter

John 1:1-5, 14

CHRISTMAS WELCOME

The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

ADVENT PROCESSIONAL "Procession" from Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Chancel Choir Sacred Dancers

Hodie Christus natus est: Hodie Salvator apparuit: Hodie in terra canunt angeli: Laetantur archangeli: Hodie exsultant justi dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia! Alleluia!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love? How does a weary world combat cruelty? How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

We do all these things with God's help. For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem. Tonight, Christ draws near. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle. Tonight, we are not alone.

God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen. Today Christ is born: Today the Saviour has appeared: Today angels sing on earth: Archangels rejoice: Today the righteous exult, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

Members of Westwood UMC's LGBTQ+ Small Group

~Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

ANTHEM

Sussex Carol arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Chancel Choir Harp & organ

On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring. On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring. News of great joy news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad Since our Redeemer made us glad. Then why should we on earth be sad Since our Redeemer made us glad. When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty. When sin departs before his grace, Then life and health come in its place; When sin departs before his grace, Then life and health come in its place; Angels and all the earth may sing, All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night, All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night: Glory to God and peace to all, Now and forevermore. Amen

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darknesson them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

Please stand as you are able.

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing arr. David Willcocks

UMH No. 240

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

SECOND READING

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

Away in a Manger arr. David Willcocks

UMH No. 217

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray! Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

THIRD READING

Luke 2:8-14

Eliot Miller

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the

Jonah Vetter Parker

Luke 2:1-7

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where 5

FIFTH READING

Matthew 2:1-6

Uriya Simeon

people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria,	in	excelsis	Deo!

CAROL

FOURTH READING

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

O Come All Ye Faithful

arr. David Willcocks

CAROL Please stand as you are able.

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!

Angels we have heard on high,

sweetly singing o'er the plains,

and the mountains in reply

echoing their joyous strains: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

> Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens 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!

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.

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing, come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria. in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Luke 2:15-20

UMH No. 234

Maxwell Hinds

UMH No. 238

the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.""

CAROL	We Three King	We Three Kings of Orient Are	
We three	kings of Orient are;	Glorious now be	ehold him arise;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,		King and God and sacrifice:	
field and fount	ain, moor and mountain,	Alleluia,	Alleluia,
follow	ing yonder star.	sounds through th	e earth and skies.
Refrain: O star	of wonder, star of light,	Refrain: O star of w	onder, star of light,
star with	royal beauty bright,	star with royal	beauty bright,
westward lea	ading, still proceeding,	westward leading	, still proceeding,
guide us t	to thy perfect light.	guide us to th	y perfect light.

SIXTH READING

Matthew 2:7-12

Coco Greene

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frank-incense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

ANTHEM

The Child is Born in Bethlehem Chris de Silva **Sanctuary Singers**

Alison Bjorkedal, harp; Josh Roebuck, recorder; Richard An, percussion Carmen Edano, alto soloist, and Taylor Jacobs, tenor soloist

The Child is born in Bethlehem, alleluia! Sing and be glad, Jerusalem, alleluia! O let our hearts rejoice! Christ is born, O come adore him with new and joyous song.

Low on the manger lies he, alleluia! Whose reign no bound or end can see, alleluia!

That ox and ass the Owner know, alleluia! And own their Lord, thus stooping low, alleluia!

> O let our hearts rejoice! Christ is born, O come adore him with new and joyous song. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The kings bring from the furthest East, alleluia! Gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Christ, alleluia! That lowly dwelling entering, alleluia! Rev'rent they greet the newborn Kind, alleluia!

of a virgin mother mild, alleluia! Seed of the woman, wondrous Child, alleluia!

us, in flesh of human frame, alleluia! Unlike in sin alone he came, alleluia!

The Holy Trinity be praised, alleluia! To God our ceaseless thanks be raised, alleluia!

> O let our hearts rejoice! Christ is born, O come adore him with new and joyous song. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CALL TO PRAYER

"Interlude" from Ceremony of Carols Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) Alison Bjorkedal, harp

Christopher Carter

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

GIVING BACK TO GOD - CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our Christmas Offering supports direct needs in our community through the Good Samaritan Fund and the Echo Park Immigration Center. **Use the QR code available to the right** or visit our website at **www.WestwoodUMC.org/Give**.



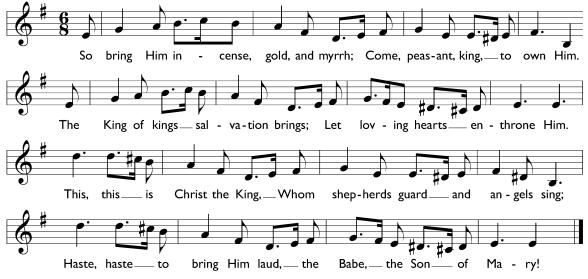
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The First Nowell arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955) Chancel Choir Josh Tan, piano

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! 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! Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord. That hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood mankind hath bought. Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel. **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Please stand as you are able.



United Methodist Hymnal No. 219. Text: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1871. Tune: GREENSLEEVES, 16th cent. English. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Christopher Carter

CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH No. 239 Taylor Jacobs, soloist

Congregational candle lighting as the carol is introduced: To avoid spilling wax, please tip your unlighted candle toward your neighbor's lit candle.

> **SOLO:** Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht nur das traute hochheilige Paar, Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Please stand and join in singing when indicated:

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. 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!

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!

BENEDICTION

Molly Vetter

Candles may now be extinguished.

RECESSIONAL CAROL *Please remain standing.*

> Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns Let all their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love

EXIT MUSIC

Josh Roebuck

We invite you to greet one another as you depart.

Candles may be deposited in receptacles provided at the door.

Westwood UMC Mission Statement

Westwood Church is a Christian community that welcomes all people and focuses on becoming and making disciples committed to justice, kindness and walking humbly with God. We welcome and affirm our ministry with all persons, regardless of age, race, ethnic origin, economic status, ability, gender, marital status or sexual orientation, from first-time visitor to lifetime member.

We seek to understand and carry out God's will, bearing witness to Christ's compassion and embracing the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We foster spiritual growth in all persons - children, youth, and adults; through individual and corporate prayer and study, worship of God, nurturing relationships, and participating in ministries of justice and mercy at home and in the global community. ALL ministries of Westwood UMC are available to ALL people.

A Reconciling Church: We, the faith community of Westwood Church, affirm that a God-filled perspective understands and embraces diversity and radical inclusivity; for that reason we embrace and affirm the full inclusion of everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We explicitly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who have been marginalized and diminished within the larger United Methodist tradition. We commit to embracing the responsibility of pushing for a more open and inclusive United Methodist Church.

You are welcome here. You are supported here. You are included here.



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Molly Vetter (she/her), Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter (he/him), Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft

MUSIC LEADERSHIP

Dr. Andrew Schultz (he/him), Director Josh Roebuck (he/him), Organist

CHANCEL CHOIR SECTION LEADERS

Sabrina Langlois (she/her), soprano Carmen Edano (she/her), alto Taylor Jacobs (he/him), tenor Hsin-Yu Hung (he/him), bass

GUEST MUSICIANS

Alison Bjorkedal (she/her), harp Dr. Joshua Tan (he/him), piano and bass Chloe Sundet (she/her), soprano Allison Cheng (she/her), alto Heeseong Lee (she/her), alto Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him) bass Byron Jones (he/him), bass

LITURGISTS

Coco Green (she/her) Maxwell Hinds (he/him) Uriya Simeon (she/her) Jonah Vetter Parker (he/him) Quinn Weatherford (he/him)

SACRED DANCERS

Ruth Elin Drossel (she/her), Director & Choreographer Dancers: Kimberly Britts, Jenniffer Duran, Denise Freese, & Isabel Kilroe

ACOLYTES

Savanna Cohen (she/her) Will Read (he/his) Eliot Miller (she/her) Oz Peterson (he/him) Sydney Weatherford (she/her)

HEAD USHER

Keith Price (he/him)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Maureen Schultz (she/her), Production Manager Richard An (he/him) and Hsin-Hua Wang (she/her), Videography & Sound

Cover art: "Your Kingdom Come" (2010) by Liberty Worth (Made from recycled magazine pages, scanned and shared digitally)

Christmas Flower Dedications

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas flowers this holiday season!

Krystal, Chris & Thea Abernethy	~In loving memory of Kaia Abernethy ~In memory of Wayne Abernethy
Yinka Bamgbose	~In honor of Rolake, Ayowale & Ayomide, Sinmi & Robert, and Okerinola & Trini. ~In loving memory of my parents, Olatunji & Modupe Oyemade.
The Bamgbose Family	~In memory of Olujimi Bamgbose, loving husband, father & grandfather.
Carolyn & Laura Coyle	~In memory of John & Elizabeth Coyle and Don & Marlene Bufkin ~In honor of grandparents John and Kristine Coyle
Elizabeth & Kenny Crews	~In honor of our adult children, Veronica & Will Crews
Cheryl Downey	~In loving memory of son, Christopher, and mother, Ruth
Ruth Elin Drossel	~In honor of my children: Erich & Lauren and Patrick & Megan!
Sandra Evans and the Vasquez/Canales Families	~In loving memory of Richard Evans
The Fonkalsrud Family	~In loving memory of Dr. Eric Fonkalsrud and Katherine Fonkalsrud
The Gale & Scottgale Families	~In memory of Austin & Ruth Gale, with love from their children and grandchildren.
Reg & Penny Gipson	 In blessed memory of our parents: Luella and John Brandt, Marjorie and Tracy Gipson Remembering our dear friends who have gone before us. Celebrating the blessings our grandchildren bring: Sarah & Emma, Charlie & Tegan, Wesley, Simon, & Henry
The Householter Family	~In memory of Beth Ziegler
Rhonda K. Lawrence	~In memory of her beloved family: parents, Keith O. and Mary W. Lawrence, and sister, Jennifer Lynn Lawrence
The Brian McCarthy Family	~In honor of family everywhere.
Adelaide McIntosh & Family	~In loving memory of Roslyn "Roz" Reps Nelson
Keith & Nancy Price	~In memory of our parents, James & WillaMae Price and Loren E. Jackson ~In honor of Nancy's mother, Alice Jackson, and our grandchildren, Petra & Raina Matheson.
Sharon Rhodes-Wickett	~In honor of Wesley, Henry and Simon and the exuberant joy and unending curiosity they bring to the world.
Sabrina Simmons	~In honor of her parents: Charles & Ruby ~In loving memory of her mom, Cheryl Simmons ~In loving memory of Mark Dalrymple
Louise Spear	~In honor of Jordan, Jennifer, Carter, and Avren Tews ~In honor of Michael, Takeyla, Calvin, and Sylvia Spear
Pam Wall	~In honor of my children: Steve, Ryan, & Dana Wall ~In loving memory of David Wall
Judy Wessling	~In loving memory of Bob Wessling: husband, father, and friend
Pat Wood	~In memory of Dana Wood

WESTWOOD CHURCH

Rev. Molly Vetter	Senior Pastor			
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter	Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft			
Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert	Director of Children and Family Ministries			
	Director of Youth & Social Justice Ministries			
	Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA			
	Sanctuary Music Director			
Josh Roebuck	Sanctuary Organist			
	n-Yu HungChancel Choir Section Leaders			
Sabrina Simmons	Office Manager Digital Content Coordinator			
Maureen Schultz	Digital Content Coordinator			
Pablo Jauregui	Facilities Manager			
Julia Black	Facilities Manager Loft Music and Worship Director			
Westley Garcia	Director of Loft Connections Children's Ministry Executive Assistant Children/Youth Choirs			
Deanna Edwards	Children's Ministry Executive Assistant			
Ruth Elin Drossel	Children/Youth Choirs			
Jaime Тор				
Youth and Children's Ministry Staff: Fozieh Karimi, Ashley Kishibay, Emily Kishibay, Lesley Castillo, Waldina				
Guevara, Eva Hooten, Josie Hooten, and Uriya Simec	n			

West District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi California-Pacific Annual Conference Bishop: Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank

The Sanctuary – 9:30am

A sacred gathering with traditional liturgy, a thoughtful message, and resounding organ.

The Loft – 10:30am

An innovative gathering with spiritual conversation, creativity, coffee, and music.

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theloftla.org | @theloftla

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Westwood Kids

Westwood Church has a vibrant Sunday morning Children's Ministry. Integrating biblical stories, music, art, and play, we are able to explore God's world using multiple teaching approaches. Join us in The Sanctuary at 9:30am with the children's choir following, and at 10:45am our biblical story time. Join our Westwood Kids email by contacting Pastor Diana Holbert at diana@westwoodumc.org.

Grapple Group

The Grapple Group provides a spiritual community for big questions for young people in grades 6-12. For more information, contact Everest Harvey, Director of Youth & Social Justice Ministries, at everest@westwoodumc.org.

Westwood Church 10497 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90024 **Office Hours** Tuesday - Friday (9am - 1pm)

Contact Us wumc@westwoodumc.org 310.474.4511