

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

11:00 AM

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God.

On the cover

Star of Wonder

The Christmas Star with a cross in the middle. The star led them to the savior. The cross leads us to Christ and His redemption.
By Mark Jennings
FineArtAmerica.com
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GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

**The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.
Jesus Christ is our life and light.
In his name and in his power we pray.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**All glory to you, great God,
for the gift of your Son,
light in darkness
and hope of the world,
whom you sent to save us.
With singing angels
let us praise your name
and tell the earth his story,
that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down,
acknowledging your love
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*The Cross and Bible lead the procession,
symbolic of the centrality in worship of
Jesus Christ—the Living Word, and the Bible—the written Word.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 147

THE FIRST NOWELL

The First Nowell

147

The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

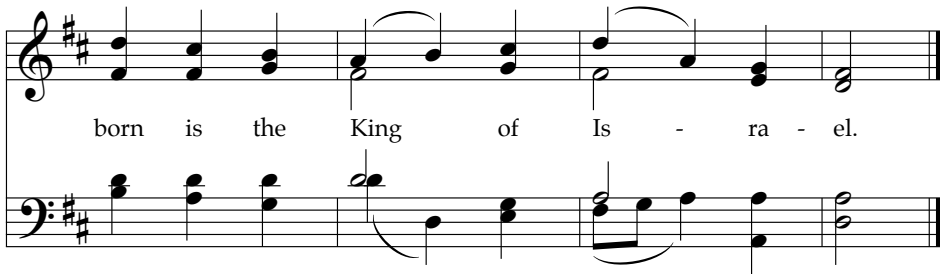
their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense.
Refrain
- 6 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 our life hath bought.
Refrain

CALL TO CONFESSION

For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son
into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

In faith and penitence,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Generous God,
you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself,
but we often find it hard to take notice;
we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received.
Forgive us, generous God,
for the casual way we treat your gift of love.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.**

(Silent confession)

Kyrie (*Singing together Hymn 115, verse 3*)

MUELLER

**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.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Alleluia! Amen!

***The Peace**

Since God in Christ has forgiven us,
let us also forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*(Please exchange the peace with the words,
“The peace of Christ be with you.”)*

***ACT OF PRAISE** *(Hymn 113, all sing)*

GLORIA

**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! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*(Everyone is asked to sign the Friendship pad
located on the center aisle-end of each pew).*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Isaiah 63:7-9

(Old Testament, page 693 in your pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 148

SALZBURG

*(Hymn 679, Verse one sung by cantor
Verse two sung by congregation)*

Matthew 2:13-23

(New Testament, page 2 in your pew Bible)

SERMON

“Afraid of good news?”

Donovan Drake

(A moment for meditation)

***HYMN 154**

Jesus Entered Egypt

KING’S WESTON

Jesus Entered Egypt

154

Capo 5: (Am) (G) (Am) (C) (Am) (Dm) (Am)
 Dm C Dm F Dm Gm Dm



1 Je - sus en - tered E - gypt flee - ing Her - od's hand,
 2 Je - sus was a mi - grant liv - ing as a guest
 3 Je - sus cross - es bor - ders with the wan - dering poor,

(C) (G) (Am) (C) (Dm)
 F C Dm F Gm



liv - ing as an a - lien in a for - eign land.
 with the friends and strang - ers who could of - fer rest.
 search - ing for a ref - uge, for an o - pen door.

(G) (Em) (Am) (G) (D) (G)
 C Am Dm C G C



Far from home and coun - try with his fam - i - ly,
 Do we hold wealth light - ly so that we can share
 Do our words and ac - tions an - swer Je - sus' plea:

(Am) (G) (Em) (Dm) (C) (G) (Am)
 Dm C Am Gm F C Dm



was there room and wel - come for this ref - u - gee?
 shel - ter with the home - less, and a - bun - dant care?
 "Give the low - ly wel - come, and you wel - come me?"

Human beings create divisions for many political, social, economic, and military reasons, but God is no respecter of the boundaries we erect. Jesus taught us to look for and respect the image of God that can be found in every human being, and to care for "the least of these."

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.**

**All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.**

**He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.**

**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

Colossians 1:15-20

***HYMN 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter
Please see Hymn 144 for text.

CRANHAM

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**We thank you for this day:
for life and for one more day to love,
one more day to work for justice and peace,
one more day to try to forgive ourselves and others,
one more day to show up for our people,
one more day to walk humbly on the earth,
one more day to receive your never-ending grace,
and one more day to experience your presence,
to be with us, our God, Emmanuel.**

**For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Singing together)*

*(See the inside back cover of your hymnal
for words and music to this prayer.)*

SENDING

***HYMN 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT


***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Christmas Medley

*(Those who are able may stand.)

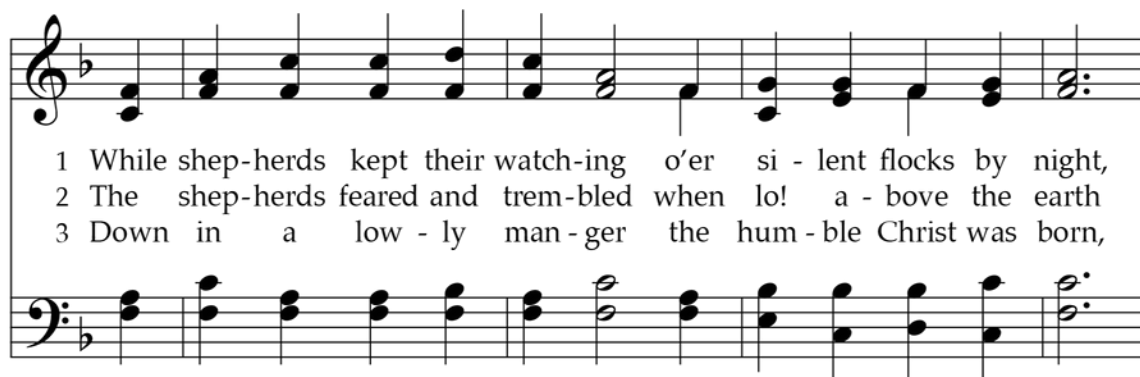
136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

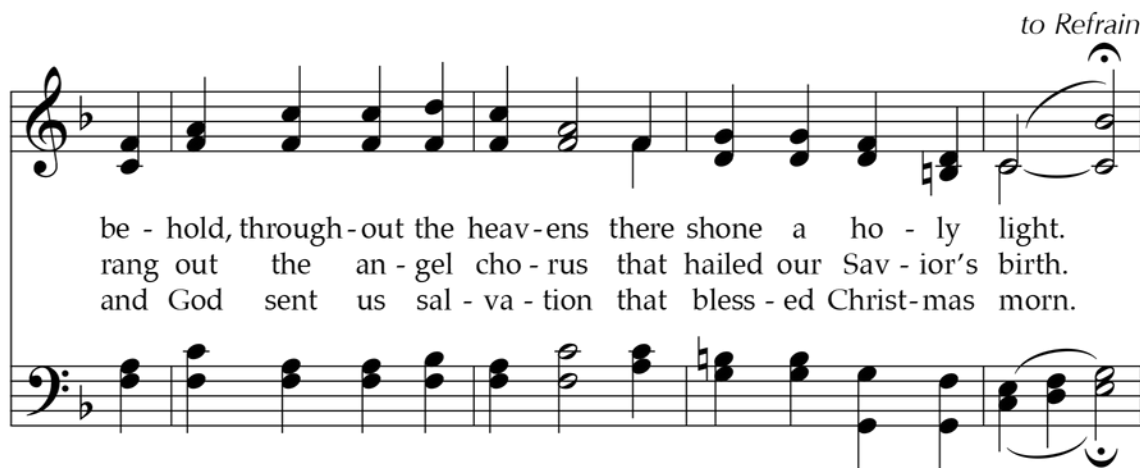

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

Welcome

Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. Any who are interested in joining us in this journey are invited to contact one of the pastors on staff by calling 615.292.5526, the church office.

Worship Leaders

Preaching

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake
Pastor and Head of Staff

Lay Liturgist

Wendy Taylor

Music

James Cole
Frank Fish
Richard Lane
Doug Leins
Gary Shockley

John Semingson
Director of Music Ministries

Mask Policy

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville is mask optional.

Hearing Assistance

We offer personal FM Receivers with an earpiece, located in the Narthex and in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser. Instructions can be found at each location.

Large Print Hymns

Looking for large-print hymns? They can be found in the Narthex at the Sanctuary entrance or in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser.

Recorded Worship Services

To watch a service at a later time, go to www.nashvillewpc.church and scroll down to the Worship Service Archive. Click on the service you would like to view.

Dial-a-Sermon

Dial 629.206.1073 after 10:15 AM each Sunday morning to listen to the sermon. The sermon will be available all week.

Copyright Information

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Our Mission

Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

MINISTRY TEAM



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