**Westminster & Westworth United Churches**

an Affirming Ministry located on the lands of

Treaty One Territory

and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation

December 24, 2024

Candlelight Christmas Eve service

**We Gather to Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit:** O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam)

Soloist: Evan Glazier & Westworth Choir

**Call to Worship**

**Carol** VU 60 O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses: 1, 3 & 4) ADESTE FIDELES

**Advent Candle Lighting**

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Where do we start?

 **Let us begin with hope.**

 **Let us begin with peace.**

 **Let us begin with joy.**

 **Let us begin with love.**

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.

For surely God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

 **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.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn** Shine! Words and music copyright 1999 Bruce Harding.

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*Shine upon us*

*Like the morning sun rising in the eastern sky.*

*Shine upon us.*

*May the radiance of your love and comfort fill our lives.*

*God, we wait for your light;*

*Guide us to your way of peace.*

*May our darkness disappear!*

*From all sorrow may we find release*.

**Prayer**

**Sacred Song** The People who Walked in Darkness

*The Messiah –* George Fredrick Handel

Soloist: Dariyan Dubik& Westworth Choir

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2-7

**Reading:**  *Those Who Saw the Star* Julia Esquivel

**Carol** VU 44 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear CAROL

**Scripture:** Luke 1: 26-35, 38

**Reading:** *Gabriel’s Annunciation*  Jan Richardson

**Sacred Song**  The Angel Gabriel arr. John Leavitt

Westminster Choir

**Scripture:** Matthew 1:18-21

**Reading:** *The Risk of Birth*  Madeleine L’Engle

**Carol** VU 74 What Child is This (v.1-3) GREENSLEEVES

**Sacred Song** For Unto Us a Child is Born

The Messiah – George Fredric Handel

Westworth Choir

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 1-20

**Reading:** *The Nativity* CS Lewis

**Sacred Song** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

 Craig Courtney

Westminster & Westworth Choirs

**Offering**

**Sacred Song** He is Born arr. Dan Forrest

Westminster & Westworth Choirs

**Offertory** VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter (V.4) CRANHAM

**Offering Prayer**

**Sacred Song** The Blessed Son of God

from Hodie – Ralph Vaughn Williams

Soloists: Rebecca McIntosh, Sonia Campbell,

Joanna Loepp Theissen, Nathan Poole, Fred Simpson

**Prayer**

**Sharing the Candlelight**

**Carol** VU 67 Silent Night STILLE NACHT

Jewel Casselman (recorder)

David Gerhard (guitar)

**Blessing**



Ministers: Rev. Sherri McConnell & Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Musicians: Megan Dufrat & Lynne Mavins

Choir Directors: Valdine Anderson & Dr. Stuart Sladden

Flutist: Bettina Nyman, Valdine Anderson