

Dear Friends & Family,

Thank you for joining us this Christmas. We are so glad you are here and chose Westminster as your spiritual practice this holiday. In the Christian tradition, Christmas is a season of welcoming the warmest light into the darkest of places. Sometimes this comes easy and naturally, yet at other times we must stay in our places of despair and remind ourselves (sometimes repeatedly) that the darkness has not had the last word. This work is not for the faint of heart. We hope that through this Christmas Eve worship and music your hearts are uplifted for the journey ahead. Please come back and join the Westminster family in 2024!

Merry Christmas! -Pastor Kelly

Join us in 2024 for...

- **Sundays 10 am Worship**
Featuring *Democracy & Dictators*. A Sermon Series
- Westminster Chancel Choir and String Ensemble's **Palm Sunday Concert (3/24)**! Rehearsals begin in January— please contact Jeffrey Larkin (music@saalemwestpres.org) for additional information if you'd like to take part!
- **Ash Wednesday (2/14) & Lent** with meditative labyrinth walking opportunities.
- **New members' class** on January 21 & 28, 11:30-1:00 for anyone wanting to become a member or just curious. RSVP to the church office (office@saalemwestpres.org).
- **Salem Youth Collective Service Project** on January 21, 12:30-3:30 pm for 6th-12th graders. Contact vik@saalemwestpres.org to sign up.

Welcome to Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



The mission of Westminister Presbyterian Church:
Creatively sharing Christ's love; we welcome, we serve, we grow.

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PRELUDE		Angie Willoughby & Charlie Patton
WELCOME		Pastor Kelly
*INTROIT	O, Come All Ye Faithful	Hymnal #133 vs. 1-3
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES		Madison Barnes-Nelson & Luanne Barnes
*CAROL	My Soul Magnifies	
READING	"The Bethlehem Explosion" by Madeleine L'Engle	Michael Wood Worship Assistant
*CAROL	Angels We Have Heard	Hymnal #113
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>Children, Go Where I Send Thee</i>	Chancel Choir
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:1-14	Worship Assistant
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE		Pastor Kelly
*CAROL	It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	Hymnal #123 vs. 1 & 5
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	Worship Team
OFFERING	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	Handbell Choir
*CAROL	The First Noel	Hymnal #147 vs. 1, 2, 6

PRAYERS FOR PEACE		Pastor Kelly
	<p>Holy God, We have been waiting a long time for this night— For the joy and the quiet of Christmas Eve, For the sound of the angel chorus, For the old familiar songs. We have carried weary hearts through Advent, Longing for the peace and hope of this night, And now it's finally here. So as we bow our heads, We offer you our most earnest and honest prayers, Trusting that once again, you meet us where we are.</p>	
*PASSING THE LIGHT	Silent Night	
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Kelly & Worship Assistant
POSTLUDE	Joy to the World	Worship Team
*Stand as you are able.		