

Welcome to Worship on this 4th of Advent. May you and yours be blessed this day through this time of worship together.

This evening we will gather for Christmas Eve Vespers at 5:00 PM - a Service of Lessons and Carols. You are most welcome.

If you are here today for the first or second time, we hope you feel welcome as a guest of this community of faith. Faith in Jesus Christ is the mark of a Christian and a disciple of Christ, and is therefore the only requirement for membership in this church. Please prayerfully consider joining this family of faith! Please talk with our pastor, and learn more by visiting us at www.cwupc.org and www.pcusa.org and on Facebook: Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church.

Assisting us in worship leadership today are Pat and George Radosavljevic, Brian Pember, Jim Nadder, Anita Bakou, the Chancel Choir, and Ken Hockenberry.

Next Sunday is the 7th Day of Christmas, and we will gather for worship at 10:45 AM (Sunday School will not meet). You are most welcome!

**The Session, Deacons, Trustees, and Staff of
Carter - Westminster United Presbyterian Church**

Session Ruling Elders: (2017), Barbara Boba, Sam Mirza, Abe Samuels, (2018) Kenneth Jacobs, Carolyn Kapteyn, Doris Nadder, John Serritella, Sam Bakou; (2019) Lisa Novel.

Deacons: (2017) Sue Americus, Lynn O'Dea, Hilda Karam; (2018) Phyllis Boba, Irene Ellyin, Rita Witzgall; (2019) Neena Ishu, Helen Oshona.

Trustees: (2017) Hugh McBride, Mac McClendon, Robert Rustemeyer; (2018) Julia Dooman, Rodney Esmael; (2019) Donald Rustemeyer.

Staff and Church Leaders:

Interim Pastor - Ken Hockenberry
Music Director and Organist - Pat Radosavljevic
Church Secretary - Karen Daughtry
Clerk of Session - Sam Mirza
Church Treasurer - John Yonan
Financial Secretary - Doris Nadder
Worship Technician - Elliott Nott
Nursery Attendants - Silva Birwari & Noora Badeen

The Community of
**Carter - Westminster United
Presbyterian Church**

*Gathered for Worship
During the Season of Advent - 2017*

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 AM

December 24, 2017
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering in God's Name

Gathering of the People

Prelude "Silent Night" JOHN CARTER

Greeting, Welcome, and Announcements

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Call to Worship**

Jesus says: I am coming soon.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

“Here we are, servants of the Lord.”
“Let it be to us according to God’s word.”

*Opening Hymn # 251 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” CAROL

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
You offer us a place in your house,
yet we find no room for you in our lives.
You invite us into your eternal realm, yet we fail to welcome others.

Forgive us, God of grace.
Let your word of life be with us so that we may truly believe
that nothing is impossible with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

One: . . . In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen!

*Act of Praise (See Screen) “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO
Good Christian friends, rejoice - with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss - Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

*The Peace
One: . . . The peace of Christ be with you. All: And also with you.
(Please share the peace of Christ with one another, then join in our Advent
Gathering Again Song, “Wait for the Lord” - on the screen)

Word Proclaimed

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

Response “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heavens’ peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

First Lesson: Luke 1:46b - 55 (p. 57)
Holy wisdom, Holy word - Thanks be to God

Offering of Music “Masters in This Hall” GUSTAV HOLST

Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 (p. 56-57)
Holy wisdom, Holy word - Thanks be to God

Time with Young Disciples
(Children are invited to come to the chancel steps, and then go to child care.)

*Hymn (See insert) “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” ES IST EIN’ ROS’

Sermon “How Can This Be? ”

*Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles’ Creed (On Screen)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns - Prayers of the People

Thanksgiving

Offering and Offertory “Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head”

*Doxology # 815 “Praise God” OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer (On Screen)

Sending

*Hymn (See insert) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

*Invitation to Discipleship

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”
(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude.)

*Going Forth
(Please join one another for coffee hour downstairs - follow the crowd)

**Please rise in body and/or in spirit!*