

**Westport Presbyterian Church—*Serving Westport and our City for over 180 Years***  
**ILLUMINATED CHRISTMAS EVE—December 24, 2020**

See [www.westportpresbyterian.org/sermons](http://www.westportpresbyterian.org/sermons) for music

**PRELUDE**

On this Day, Earth Shall Ring (PERSONENT HODIE) by Mark Patterson.

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES:**

Let us share the Light of Christmas Night!

On the Eve of Christmas—Hatred will vanish.

On the Eve of Christmas—the Earth will flourish.

On the Eve of Christmas—War and Terror will begin to die

On the Eve of Christmas—Love and Hope will begin to be born.

When we offer comfort to the sick and dying—It is Christmas.

When we extend hospitality to the homeless and refugees—It is Christmas.

When we hold in our arms the lonely person—It is Christmas.

When the spirit of fear dies within us—It is Christmas.

Let there be peace this Christmas!

**Congregational Hymn:    Glory to God#133                    O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**ILLUMINATED CHRISTMAS EVE:**

*A Christmas Eve Celebration that depicts and interprets the Nativity Story with readings from the Prophet Isaiah and the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John, hymns, a display of art from all over the Planet Earth and every time and age.*

**1. The Prophecy of Isaiah**

**#136            Glory to God                    Go Tell It On the Mountain**

**2. Zechariah and Elizabeth—Gabriel appears to Mary**

**#2095            Sing the Faith                    Star Child**

**3. The Angel reveals the decisive impact of the baby's birth**

**#119            Glory to God                    Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**4. Gospel of Luke's story of the journey to Bethlehem and birth of Jesus**

**#145            Glory to God                    What Child Is This**

5. Gospel of Luke's story of the shepherds and the multitude of angels

#135 Glory to God

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow

6. Shepherds' visit to Bethlehem and the journey of the Magi to see the babe

#151 Glory to God

We Three Kings of Orient Are

7. Adoration of the Magi and the Flight to Egypt

#134 Glory to God

Joy to the World

**CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYERS, CONCLUDING WITH LORD'S PRAYER**

**TIME FOR SILENT MEDITATION—end with ringing of gong**

#114 Glory to God

Away in a Manger

### **CLOSING BLESSING**

Leader: Light looked down and saw darkness.

**Everyone: "I will go there," said Light.**

Leader: Peace looked down and saw war.

**Everyone: "I will go there," said Peace.**

Leader: Love looked down and saw hatred.

**Everyone: "I will go there," said Love.**

Leader: So may the Lord of Light!

**Everyone: The Prince of Peace!**

Leader: The King of Love!

**Everyone: Come down and creep in beside all of us—beginning tonight!**

*Adapted from Cloth for the Cradle, Iona Community*

**SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING:** People at home can light a candle, a flashlight, or a small lamp in a darkened room.

#122 Glory to God Silent Night, Holy Night