



# WELCOME FROM TIM EVERS, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

In December, as the sun sets during the 4:00 pm hour, we are very aware of the protracted darkness of nighttime. Today's program focuses on the "true God from true God, light from light eternal," Christ's humble beginnings in a manger that will become an earth-changing ministry of love. Joseph Brodsky's evocative poem, *Star of the Nativity*, paints this humble scene. Brodsky writes,

In the cold season, in a locality accustomed to heat more than to cold, to horizontality more than to a mountain, a child was born in a cave in order to save the world; it blew as only in deserts in winter it blows, athwart.

To Him, all things seemed enormous: His mother's breast, the steam out of the ox's nostrils, Caspar, Balthazar, Melchior—the team of Magi, their presents heaped by the door, ajar. He was but a dot, and a dot was the star.

The music selected for today will focus on this humble birth of an ordinary child with an enormous call to minister to God's people. As we gaze upon the soft stillness of that manger scene, we hear the world's weariness. And in the midst of it all, we hear Jesus' voice saying, "My peace I give unto you." And so, we rejoice anew in the birth of this Christ Child. May you feel the warmth of God's love in today's message in music. Christmas blessings to you and yours. Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church.

"No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known."

-John 1:18

# ILLUMINE OUR HEARTS

34th Annual Christmas Concert

Welcome

Night of Silence

Daniel Kantor, arr. John Ferguson

# **PROCESSIONAL**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Benjamin Harlan

Audience is invited to rise in body or in spirit at the director's cue and sing

Reflection

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Robert Scholz

Joanne Ebert, Lynn Green, Victoria Howard, Soprano 1 Emily Chudy, Colleen Johnson, Soprano 2 Holly Chambers, Laurie Peiffer, Mindy Bowman, Alto

All the Stars Looked Down

John Rutter

Reflection

Illuminare

Elaine Hagenberg

I. Splendor

II. Caritas

III. Nox

IV. Munera pacis

Robert Rinaldo, Tenor

V. Illuminare his

# **OFFERING**

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Chancel Ringers

A Child of Hope

**Christmas Day** 

arr. Valerie Stephenson

Ryan Murphy

Gustav Holst

Victoria Howard, Soprano Kim Russell, Mezzo-Soprano Robert Rinaldo, Tenor Lee Fisher, Bass

Reflection

**Festival First Nowell** 

arr. Dan Forrest

Joy to the World

arr. Mack Wilberg

Audience is invited to rise in body or in spirit at the director's cue and sing

Benediction

New Year John Rutter

# **PROGRAM TEXTS**

# **Night of Silence**

Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

(Audience and Choir sing)

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

Spirit among us, shine like the star, Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar, Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, Rising in the warmth of your Son's love, Star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful (Christmas Canticles)

Audience is invited to rise in body or in spirit at the director's cue and sing

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
Come, let us adore Him,

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O Come, let us adore Him, O Come, let us adore Him, Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Joanne Ebert, Lynn Green, Victoria Howard, *Soprano 1* Emily Chudy, Colleen Johnson, *Soprano 2* Holly Chambers, Laurie Peiffer, Mindy Bowman, *Alto* 

This night a wondrous revelation

A great and mighty wonder,

Makes known to me God's love and grace;

A full and holy cure:

The Child that merits adoration

The virgin bears the infant,

Brings light to our benighted race;

The word incarnate sure.

A great and mighty wonder:

The virgin bears the infant.

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophets long have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

### **All the Stars Looked Down**

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap, His hair was like a light. (O weary, weary were the world, But here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast, His hair was like a star. (O stern and cunning are the kings, But here the true hearts are.)

### (Audience sings with Choir)

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

This night a wondrous revelation.

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart, His hair was like a fire. (O weary, weary is the world, But here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee, His hair was like a crown. And all the flowers looked up at him, And all the stars looked down.

### Illuminare

#### I. Splendor

Splendor paternae gloriae, de luce lucem proferens, lux lucis et fons luminis, diem dies illuminans.

Splendor of God's glory, brings forth light from light, light of light, light's living spring, Day, all days illuminates.

- Saint Ambrose (340-397)

#### II. Caritas

Caritas abundat in omnia, de imis excellentissima super sidera, atque amantissima in omnia, Quia summo regi osculum pacis dedit.

Love abounds in all, from the depths most excellent to beyond the stars, and loving toward all, she has given the highest king the kiss of peace.

- Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

#### III. Nox

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

-Traditional Greek

Nox et tenebrae et nubila, confusa mundi et turbida. Caligo terrae scinditur, percussa solis spiculo.

Night and darkness and fog, confused world and turmoil. Dark gloom tears the earth, beats and stabs the sun.

- Aurelius Prudentius Clemens (348-413)

### IV. Munera pacis

Robert Rinaldo, Tenor

Ecce jam noctis tenuatur umbra, Lux et auroae rutilans coruscat: Supplices rerum Dominum canora Voce precemur:

Ut reos culpae miseratus, omnem Pellat angorem, tribuat salutem, Donet et nobis bona sempiternae Munera pacis.

Behold, already night and shadows taper off Light and dawn sparkle and quiver We humbly beg the Lord through song Our voices pray:

Though we are guilty, view us with compassion Banish anguish, bestow health Grant us everlasting goodness Give us peace.

- Pope Gregory (540-604)

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

- John 14:27

#### V. Illuminare his

et in umbra mortis sedent:
ad dirigendos pedes nostros in viam pacis.

Illuminate those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death: direct our footpath in the way of peace.

- Canticle of Zechariah (Luke 1:78-79)

# Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

According to tradition in the Provence region of France, Jeanette and Isabella were shep-herdesses who brought torches to illumine the baby Jesus and his mother in the stable. Here is the first stanza of the carol, as translated by E. Cuthbert Nunn:

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;
Christ is born and Mary's calling.
Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother!
Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son!

# A Child of Hope

A child of hope to us is born, a Son to us is given.
The Light of Life, the Holy One, the joy of earth and heaven.
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, forevermore adored.
The Wonderful, the Counsellor, the Everlasting Lord.
Glory to God in the highest.

O sing ye choirs of angels, sing;
O sing, ye hosts above,
O come, let us adore his name,
the God of grace and love.
For souls redeemed and sins forgiv'n,
let joyful praises sound.
The King of kings salvation brings.
What hope in God is found!

Glory to God in the highest.

Now peace on earth, goodwill to all from heaven's all gracious King.

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing:

Glory to God in the highest. Amen.



### **Christmas Day**

Victoria Howard, *Soprano* Kim Russell, *Mezzo-Soprano* Robert Rinaldo, *Tenor* Lee Fisher, *Bass* 

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today: ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day, To save us all from woe and sin, when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Jewry, this blessed Babe was born, And laid within a manger, upon that holy morn; The which His Mother, Mary, did nothing take in scorn. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened the heav'nly door, and man is blessed forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly, let your songs of gladness ring; In a stable lies the Holy, in a manger rests the King; See, in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heav'n adored; Come, your circle round him closing, pious hearts that love the Lord.

Come, ye poor, no pomp of station robes the Child your hearts adore: He, the Lord of all salvation, shares your want, is weak and poor: Oxen, round about behold them; rafters naked, cold and bare, See the shepherds, God has told them that the Prince of Life lies there.

Come, ye children, blithe and merry, this one child your model make; Christmas holly, leaf and berry, all be prized for his dear sake; Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender, come, ye spirits, keen and bold; All in all your homage render, weak and mighty, young and old.

High above a star is shining, and the Wisemen haste from far; Come, glad hearts, and spirits pining: for you all has ris'n the star.
Let us bring our poor oblations, thanks and love and faith and praise; Come, ye people, come, ye nations, all in all draw nigh to gaze.

The first Nowell the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one, and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

### **Festival First Nowell**

### (Choir & Audience Sing)

The first Nowell the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

#### (Choir & Audience Treble Voices)

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,

### (Choir & Audience Bass Voices)

And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.

### (Choir Only)

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

### (Choir & Audience Sing)

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

# Joy to the World

Audience is invited to rise in body or in spirit at the director's cue and sing

### (Choir & Audience Sing)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her king! let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

#### (All Treble Voices)

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

### (All Bass Voices)

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground: he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found,

#### (Choir & Audience Sing)

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

### **New Year**

Turn your eyes to the light; cast away the works of darkness, let them go:
Turn your eyes to the light.
Turn your face to the sun;
Feel the warmth,
the hope of new beginnings with each new year.

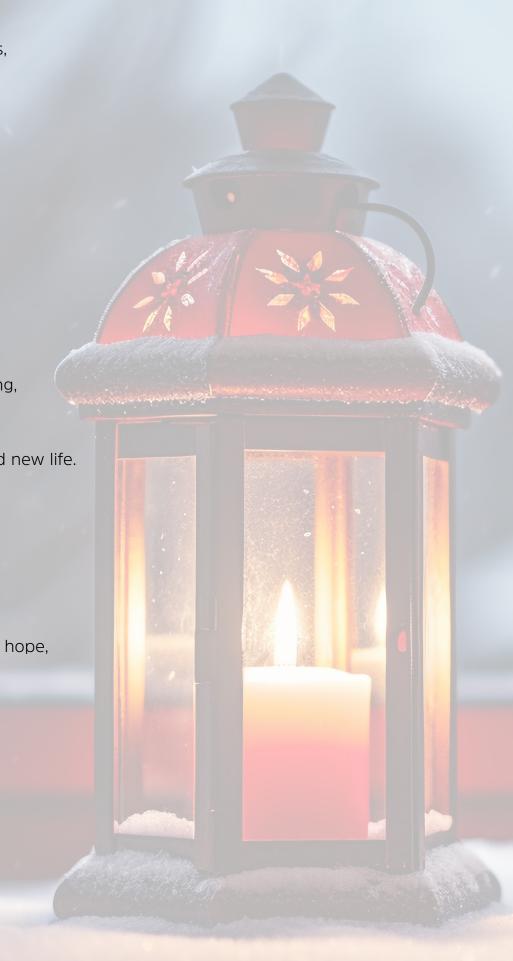
The light was always there, if we could but see it; And warmth was in the air, if we'd known how to feel.

Turn your eyes to the Light, Turn your face to the Sun: New light, new hope, new year.

Turn your ears to the sound;
Somewhere near a voice is calling,
hear the news,
Turn your ears to the sound.
Turn your heart to the Love;
Christ is come to bring the world new life.

The voice is always there, if the world will hear it; And love is always there, if you search in your heart.

Turn your ears to the sound, Turn your heart to the love: New light, new love, new year, new life, and love, and light and hope, this good New Year.



# CHANCEL CHOIR

### Tim Fvers Director of Music Ministries

### SOPRANOS

Emily Chudy Lynn Clouser Janet Dadds Joanne Ebert Cheryl Fattibene Chris Ferrarini

Katherine Frank-Schock Sandy Graves Lynn Green Sally Greenwood Meghan Hickey Victoria Howard

Colleen Johnson Brooke Kauffman Cherie Krenz Kimberly Kusnersyk Linnea Linderman Liz McEwen

Cynthia Robinson Kim Russell Maddie Russell Janet Wilson Smith Nancy J Tuttle Alison Wood

## ALTOS

Fran Atkinson Alice Balsama Joan Beck Claudia Beckmann Jean Boell Mindy Bowman Ruth Buboltz Karen Caswell Holly Chambers Madison Chuang

Carmela Curatola Barb Drain Jane Fenicle Karen Finley Diana Forrest Joan Giles Betsy Griffith-Smith Katie Hazzard Robbe Healey Donna Hineman

Gretchen Hrachovec Carol Kauffman Karen Koepke Karen Matt Susan Nuvannes Barb Osterheldt Laurie Peiffer Dorothy Phillips Jan Pymer Rachel Rider

Heike Schmidt Bey Shaner Molly Stevens Carole Swartz Carol Venema Sandy Vicoli Carol Wawryzniak Lynn Wildrick

### TENORS

Mark Banghart Chuck Bogert Elizabeth Brecht Lee Fisher Mark Hrachovec

Steve Johnsen Eric Johnson Jeri Kevorkian Bernadette Langdon Rich Linderman

Scott Lockledge Karyl Murray-Cyphers Stephen Pymer Bill Rappolt Robert Rinaldo

Rich Smith Ted Strand

### BASSES

Larry Beck Hank Belusa **Bob Boell** Jon Frost Chuck Geyer

Mark Langdon Jerry Lien Dan Maffei Ed McFalls Rvan Rivers

**David Robinson** Bob Schwan Jeff Spotts Rick Steedle Don Steele

Bob Steiginga Allen Stupplebeen Dennis Swartz Rich Vogel Roy Young

# CHANCEL RINGERS Associate Director of Music Ministries

Kirsten Santos Rutschman

Alice Bogert Chuck Bogert Lvnn Clouser

Carol Edwards Anne Kunz Betsy Lane

**Bunny Lawton** Joan Lorgus Kathy Miller

Barb Necarsulmer Rich Vogel Carol Wawrzyniak

# **ORCHESTRA**

VIOLIN 1

Hope Linton

Ben Weaver

VIOLIN 2

Margaret Dziekonski

(Sun)

Olivia Flickinger (Sat)

Chanin Jung

**VIOLA** 

Katrina Kelly

Nolan Prochnau (Sat)

Ardath Belzer

CELLO

Naomi Gray

Amy Flynn

BASS

John Grillo

**FLUTE** 

Robert Carpency

OBOE

Terence Belzer

**CLARINET** 

Joe Hrin

**BASSOON** 

Roberta Winemiller

HORN

Robert Frazier

Daniel Klugman (Sun)

Liz Pfaffle

TRUMPET

JC Dobrzelewski Aaron Folmsbee TROMBONE

Ron Evans

**TUBA** 

Art Greene

PERCUSSION

Sam Stewart

Sean Rode

PIANO / ORGAN

Kirsten Santos Rutschman

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Rehearsal Accompanist

Voice Coach

**Choir Librarians** 

**Choir Robing Coordinators** 

**Choir President** 

Choir Vice President

Program/Slides/PR

**Head Usher** 

**Flowers** 

Christmas Decorations

Musicians' Meals

Sanctuary Sound Technician

Slide Technician

**Live Stream Camera Operator** 

Live Stream Sound Technician

**Pastors** 

**Church Administrator** 

Finance Office

Office Staff

**Custodial Staff** 

Kirsten Santos Rutschman

Kim Russell

Ruth Buboltz & Dorothy Phillips

Fran Atkinson & Cherie Krenz

Ed McFalls

**Bob Steiginga** 

Lynn George

Larry Graves

Sandy Graves

Gail Lee & many helpers

Carol Olver & Nancy Steiginga

Dirk MacAlpine

Dan Green

Maddie Perkins

Thomas Pennington

Eric Dorville, Jon Frost, Ann Hatfield & Leah Hrachovec

Gerry McShane

Sandy Kurek & Parker Hendrix

Barb Drain & Jennie Moffitt

David Benton & Terry Hawkins

# JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Did You Enjoy Today's Program?

Consider singing in the Spring Concert this March
Edward Elgar Light of Life
Gabriel Fauré Requiem

Rehearsals 7:00-8:15 pm Thursdays in the Choir Room starting January 16, 2025

### Interested in Handbells?

Chancel Ringers (Open to Adults & High-School Youth)
Rehearsals 7:00-8:30 pm Wednesdays in Spellman Hall

### **Interested in Choirs at Westminster?**

Chancel Choir (Open to Adult Singers)
Rehearsals 7:00-9:00 pm Thursdays in the Music Room

Youth Choir (Youth in Grades 6-12)
Rehearsals 5:00-6:00 pm Sundays in the Music Room

Children's Choir (Children in Grades 2-5)
Rehearsals 4:45-6:00 pm Wednesdays in Spellman Hall

Cherub Choir (Children in Kindergarten-Grade 1)
Rehearsals 4:15-5:00 pm Wednesdays in Spellman Hall

### For More Information

Visit: westminsterpc.org or Contact:

Tim Evers, Director of Music Ministries tevers@westminsterpc.org • 610-399-3377, ext 115

Kirsten Santos Rutschman, Associate Director of Music Ministries krutschman@westminsterpc.org • 610.399.3377 ext. 140



# **Support Westminster's Music Ministry**

Your financial gifts help make these concerts possible. A freewill offering will be collected. A \$25 donation per ticket is suggested.

Donate online: westminsterpc.org/give/music Text music and \$ amount to 73256 to donate via text

# **UPCOMING CONCERTS**

### A Very Westminster Worship Collective Christmas Concert

4:00-5:30 pm Saturday, December 21

Join the Westminster Worship Collective for a festive concert of Christmas music. Selections include both popular and sacred favorites as well as new songs for the season. Join them afterwards for a reception with light holiday refreshments. This is a free concert and we hope you will be our guest.



#### **Elevate Vocal Arts**

4 pm Sunday, February 16, 2025

Elevate Vocal Arts (EVA) creates performance and education opportunities, and expands creative workforce development opportunities for individuals from historically marginalized communities to develop as professional Vocal Artists who speak to our time's relevant issues through music, storytelling, and spoken word, strengthening our democracy. This weekend event is an opportunity for singers to come sing & rehearse while learning about performance practice of African-American Music on Saturday. On Sunday, the public is invited to hear Elevate perform, joined in the second half of the concert by singers from the workshop.



Reserve
Tickets for
Elevate's Concert

### Elgar Light of Life & Fauré Requiem

4 pm Sunday, March 30, 2025

Join us for our annual free requiem performance during the season of Lent.

# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

# Tuesday, December 24

10 am Family/Young Children Worship\*

3 pm Candlelight Worship with Worship Band\*+
5 pm Candlelight Worship with Youth Choir\*+

7 pm Candlelight Worship with Chancel Choir & Brass\*+
9 pm Candlelight Worship with Chancel Choir & Brass

11 pm Candlelight Worship with Communion

# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30 am Traditional Worship\*+

11:00 am Contemporary Worship\*+

5:00 pm Taizé Worship (first Sunday of the month)\*

4:00 pm Vespers Worship (third Sunday of the month)

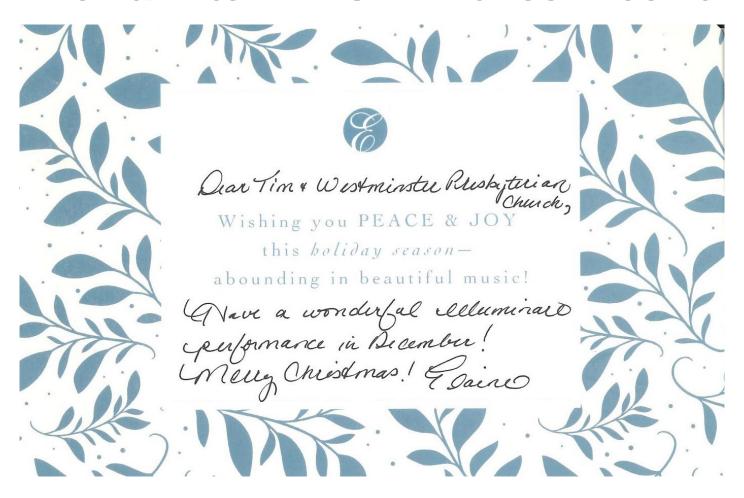
# MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

9:10 am Wednesday Prayer and Communion\*

<sup>\*</sup>Live stream this service at westminsterpc.org/livestream

<sup>+</sup> This service has Nursery care for children (6 months - 4 years)

# A CARD FROM ILLUMINARE COMPOSER



Introducing . . .

# Friends of Music at Westminster

There are few places in Chester County where you can enjoy world class music, or participate as a singer or instrumentalist. Here at Westminster – you can! Beginning this year, you have a new opportunity to intentionally support Music at Westminster and share in these projects as a Friends Circle Member.

In today's program you will find an envelope with all the details. Gifts of all sizes are needed and welcome. Your participation as a Friends Circle member would be especially welcomed – and will support our 2024-2025 season of beautiful, diverse, and distinctive music.



# **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known 10 W. Pleasant Grove Rd. West Chester, PA 19382

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