Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Even the smallest tender mercy can bring peace when recognized and appreciated." Richelle L. Goodrich

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**

One voice: Come, join the search for all that God will reveal.
Many voices: We find God wrapped in light and mystery!

Once voice: God has done wonderful things among us.
We have come here to worship and give thanks.
Many voices: In Jesus, the Christ, God gives us light for our darkness and guidance for our journey.

One voice: Arise, shine for your light has come!
Sing praise to the living God!
Many voices: We shall live as people of the light!
We shall walk and not be afraid!

All: Let us worship God!

***HYMN 128** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
W ŻLOBIE LEŻY

***THE PRAYER OF ADORATION (Unison)** **Donna Eagle Joslin**

O God of hope and peace, of joy and love, you have brought forth a child whom we call blessed, the one whose coming we have waited for. Through him you give us the gift of abundant life, and have taught us the way of love and peace. With shepherds and angels, we lift our voices rejoicing: All glory to you in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom you dwell. Amen!

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

Family of faith,
no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,
no matter how many times we ask ourselves, *"How can this be?"*
God's love keeps showing up for us.
We are loved. We are claimed.
We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL
All those children and youth who are present are invited to come forward at this time.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 148

THE ANTHEM Torches by john Joubert
Tr. J.B. Trend (from the Galician)

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to him!

Ah, Ro-ro, Ro-ro, my baby,
Ah, Ro-ro, my love, Ro-ro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,
While we sing you our Ro-ro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven,
Now and evermore, amen!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 2:25-29

THE SERMON **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
"In Case You're Wondering"

***HYMN 147** "The First Noel"
THE FIRST NOWELL

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**

It is not over,
This birthing.
There are always newer skies
Into which
God can throw stars.

When we begin to think
That we can predict the Advent of God,
That we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,
That's just the time
That God will be born
In a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God
Watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
Listening
Always listening
For angel words.

By Ann Weems

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN 541** "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"
RANDOLPH

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Coffee Hour Host: Janice Collins & Jim Storey
Liturgist: Donna Eagle Joslin
Elder of the Day: Beth Meriwether

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us on this joyous day!

PRAYERS GO OUT FOR: Tacci Presnell-Smith and family, on her mother Anna Marie Smith's death: John Showalter; Betty Smith's family, on her death; Martha, and the Dugger family, on Lee's death; Sally Broughton; Derron Daugherty and family, on his accident; Beth Newman; Susan Runholt, Steve's sister; Salyna Morgan; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Bartley Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother; Jackie Wintle's sister, Judy Reynolds; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison.

WWPC Online Directory Warren Wilson Presbyterian is implementing online access to our directory and calendar for church members. This will not only save paper and toner but will provide up to date information when accessed online, or on your phone. Look for information and a link to instructions in the December newsletter.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY Join us on Sunday, January 7 Epiphany Sunday, as we welcome Rev. Margaret Lamotte Torrence to our pulpit and to our church as our Transitional Pastor! Pick out your Star Word to guide you through 2024 and come welcome Margaret.

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Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



December 31, 2023

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole - and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!