

NO ADULT EDUCATION CLASS Sunday, December 25. Join us again in January for another informative class!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, December 26, 2016-Monday, January 2, 2017. Please drop off end of year contributions in the glass partition of the church office, give it to a church officer, or postmark it by Saturday, December 31 in order to be credited towards 2016 giving.

ST. MATTHEW'S SCAT 2016 CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM will provide holiday food and gifts to more than 300 families in our community. There are many opportunities for you to get involved. Go to www.signup.com/go/P78PQ4 to volunteer!



CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

☞ **6:00 PM** Worship with the Children's Nativity Tableau and Story

☞ **8:00 PM** Carols and Lessons by Candlelight with the Sanctuary Choir



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

December 18-25, 2016

<p>SUNDAY, December 18 The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:50 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 9:30 AM Early Coffee 10:00 AM Worship-Ceremony of Carols 10:20 AM Sunday Funday 10:20 AM Youth Bible Study 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM Dining for Women Meeting 4:15 PM New Spirit Ringers 5:00 PM Valley Youth Choir</p>	<p>MONDAY, December 19 8:00 AM Women's Aerobics 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 7:30 PM Scout Pack 592</p> <p>TUESDAY, December 20 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, December 21 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Women's Aerobics 5:00 PM Nativity Tableau Rehearsal 6:30 PM Cub Scout Lion Den 6:30 PM Scout Pack 592</p>	<p>THURSDAY, December 22 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>FRIDAY, December 23 8:00 AM Women's Aerobics</p> <p>SATURDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve 6:00 PM Christmas Nativity Tableau 8:00 PM Christmas Candlelight Worship</p> <p>SUNDAY, December 25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM Worship - Carol Sing Sunday 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship</p>
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SERVICE OF WORSHIP



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 DECEMBER 18, 2016 ☩ 10:00 AM**

❖ *Please stand as you are able*
Bold Text is spoken by everyone

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

SCRIPTURE FOR GATHERING *Isaiah 9:2*
 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

PRELUDE

ACOLYTES Macy Vermillion and Sophie Vermillion

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please pass and sign the friendship folders.

- ❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP**
 We thank the God who lights our way in the darkness.
We thank the God who gives us stars to follow.
 Leading us from darkness to light,
 From confusion to understanding.
We thank the God who calls us and leads us into truth.

❖ **OPENING HYMN** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No 2



8060 SW Brentwood Street, Portland, Oregon 97225
 503.292.3537 www.valleycommunity.org

Valley Staff

- Ben Paroulek..... Pastor, ext. 134
- Chuck Falconer and Jenny Pratt..... Pastoral Associates
- Laurel Cluthe..... Children's and Youth Minister, ext. 135
- Angela Kirby..... Nursery Coordinator, ext. 135
- David Jimerson Minister of Music, ext. 139
- Bob Hinson Organist/Pianist, ext. 139
- Amy Rheingans Director of Youth & Children's Music, ext. 145
- Anne Scearce Preschool Director, ext. 146
- Angela Graham Publication & Office Administrator, ext. 126
- AmyAnn Green Business Manager, ext. 128
- Connor Campbell Building Superintendent, ext. 143

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Scearce Family

ADVENT SONG

Advent Song

Nº 2090, v.3

**Light the Advent candle, four; think of joy for ever more.
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sophia Scearce, Liturgist

☪ *Silence is kept* ☪

❖ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Gloria Patri

Nº 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

❖ THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.

❖ RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Nº 2091

**The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.
Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel the promised of ages.
The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices!**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Kay Hope Gold

CENTS-ABILITY OFFERING

SOLO ANTHEM

Comfort Ye, My People
Aaron Lange, Tenor

G.F. Händel

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

New Testament, p. 1

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

A Rumor of Angels

Ben Paroulek

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bonnie Reeder, Deacon

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERTORY

Pat-a-Pan

arr. Krug

New Spirit Ringers

*(This morning, in addition to our regular offering, we also receive the Christmas Joy Offering.
Please see announcement in this morning's bulletin.)*

❖ *Congregation rising, row by row, as ushers pass* ❖

❖ DOXOLOGY

Nº 592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

❖ SENDING HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Nº 38

❖ CHARGE & BLESSING

from Isaiah 60

Arise, shine, for your light has come. So lift up your eyes and look around.
May you see and be radiant.

**May our hearts thrill and rejoice at the abundance of peace
poured upon us through God's gift of Jesus.**

Amen. Go in peace.

POSTLUDE

*You are invited to remain seated to conclude worship with the postlude
or exit quietly after the benediction.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS: we greet you in the name of Jesus Christ! A special gift will be offered to you during worship today.

A STAFFED NURSERY for infants-3 year olds is available in room 7 behind the sanctuary on Sundays, 9:45-11:15 AM.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP will be hosted by the Sanderman Family upstairs in Davis Hall/Gym after worship. Coffee, tea, juice, conversation!

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received during worship today, December 18. This offering helps provide opportunities for deserving students and assistance to former and current church workers and families.

THE SOUP KITCHEN is in need of volunteers for 2017. Please contact Jini De Vries, Valley Soup Kitchen Coordinator, at virginiaDEVRIES@comcast.net if you, your group, or your family would like to participate in this mission to feed local homeless people.

THE DEACON'S RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE has been cancelled due to a staffing conflict. The next drive will be held at Valley in March.

NATIVITY TABLEAU: All children age 4-5th grade are invited to participate in the Nativity Tableau during the 6:00 PM service on Christmas Eve. Children will dress in costumes: Mary, Joseph, donkey, angels, shepherds, sheep, and kings. There is one practice on Wednesday, December 21, from 5:00-6:00 PM in the sanctuary. Please contact Amy Rheingans at amyRHEINGANS@comcast.net to let her know your child will participate.

THE CEREMONY OF CAROLS by Benjamin Britten will be postponed until Sunday, January 8, 2017.

May God bless you as you worship here today:

Touch you, Challenge you, Heal you, Inspire you, Direct you to new paths
in your unfolding journey. Valley Community Presbyterian Church is a place for

**Awakening Souls, Sharing Joy, Serving God in Christ,
TRANSFORMING LIVES!**