

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 13, 2020 † 10:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jeff Binder

LITURGISTS: The Teed Family

MUSICIANS: Bob Hinson, Aaron Lange, Katie Craig, Olivia Hoffbeck, Greg Russell

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Dan Rueff, Greg Russell, Donna Russell

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND ELEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (The Teed Family)

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle in peace.

We light this candle in joy.

Let us pray... Most Holy God, on this day we wait for the coming of the Christ Child with joy. May we be reminded of the words of your prophets of old, as we also listen for prophets of your word today. We yearn for their visions of justice, peace, and salvation to be realized for all who thirst for your presence today.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE No. 90 (Wait for the Lord) (Sung three times)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

WORDS OF PRAISE (Psalm 126:1-6)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

OPENING HYMN No. 105 (People, Look East)

Verse 1: *People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

Verse 2: *Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

Verse 3: *Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east: Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

Verse 4: *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together. People, look east: Love the Star, is on the way.*

Verse 5: *Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 88 (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel) (Verse 3)

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 583 (Glory to God)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Isaiah 61:1-4)

ANTHEM (El Pequeño Niño arranged by Ruth Dwyer; Katie Craig and Olivia Hoffbeck, soloists; Greg Russel, piano)

MESSAGE ("Joy" by Rev. Jeff Binder)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 145 (What Child Is This)

Verse 1: *What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

Verse 2: *Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, hear; for sinner here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through the cross be borne for me, for you, Hail, hail, he Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

Verse 3: *So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From *The Confession of 1967*)

In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all people.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MOMENT FOR MISSION (Christmas Joy Offering; Rev. Chuck Falconer)

OFFERTORY (*Every Valley* from *Messiah* by Handel; Aaron Lange, Tenor)

(Offerings can be mailed into the church office or made online by visiting our website:

www.valleycommunity.org)

DOXOLOGY

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

CLOSING HYMN No. 136 (Go, Tell It on the Mountain)

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Verse 1: *While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.* Refrain

Verse 2: *The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.* Refrain

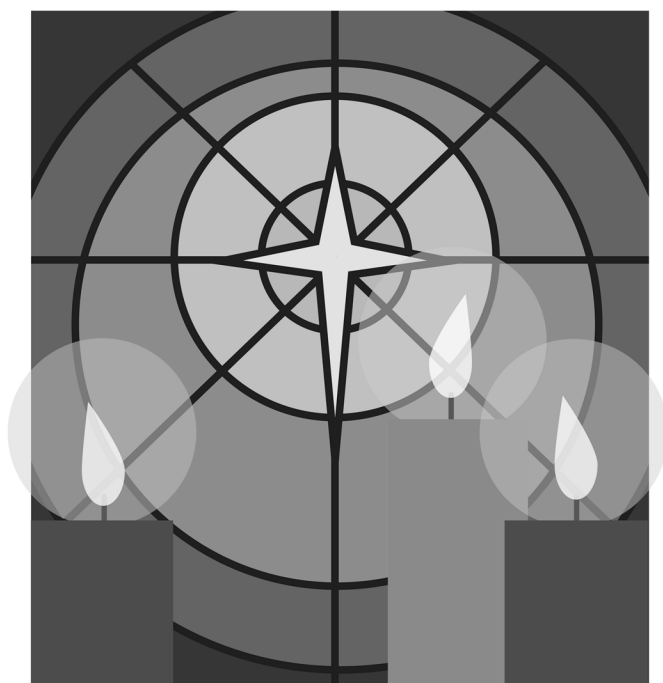
Verse 3: *Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.* Refrain

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE



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Advent