

# VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 20, 2020 † 10:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone*

PASTOR: Rev. Jeff Binder

LITURGISTS: The Carlson Family

MUSICIANS: Bob Hinson, Raoul Bellis-Squires, Katie Craig, Olivia, Georgia, Lars Hoffbeck

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 Carlson 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 Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child. She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us." And hear these words from a loving mother: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle in peace.

We light this candle in joy.

We light this candle in love.

Let us pray... Loving Creator, today we gather in love as your beloved children. We yearn to welcome the Christ Child as our own, to embrace him as kin. Help us to see your love in one another as we wait upon your coming; light conquering darkness; love conquering fear.

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

ADVENT RESPONSE No. 90 (Wait for the Lord) (Sung four times: twice by all; once by soloist; then by all)  
**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!**

WORDS OF PRAISE (Psalm 89)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

**with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

**your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

## OPENING HYMN No. 132 (Good Christian Friends, Rejoice)

Verse 1: *Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: 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!*

Verse 2: *Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

Verse 3: *Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

## OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, 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 4)

*O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name. 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING (2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16)

ANTHEM (Carol of the Bells; Katie Craig, Olivia Hoffbeck, Georgia Hoffbeck, Lars Hoffbeck)

NEW TESTAMENT READING (Luke 1:26-38)

MESSAGE ("Homeless?" by Rev. Jeff Binder)

## RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 129 (Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)

Verse 1: *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*

Verse 2: *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.*

Verse 3: *This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From *The Book of Order*)

The good news of the Gospel is that the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—creates, redeems, sustains, rules, and transforms all things and all people. This one living God, the Scriptures say, liberated the people of Israel from oppression and covenanted to be their God. By the power of the Spirit, this one living God is incarnate in Jesus Christ, who came to live in the world, die for the world, and be raised again to new life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ announces the nearness of God's kingdom, bringing good news to all who are impoverished, sight to all who are blind, freedom to all who are oppressed, and proclaiming the Lord's favor upon all creation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Valerie Conner, Deacon)

OFFERTORY (Who Would Send a Baby by Beal; Raoul Bellis-Squires, Bass)

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

[www.valleycommunity.org](http://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.*

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

## SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

CLOSING HYMN No. 133 (O Come, All Ye Faithful)

Verse 1: *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!*

Refrain: *O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Verse 2: *True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very god, begotten, not created!* Refrain

Verse 3: *Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!* Refrain

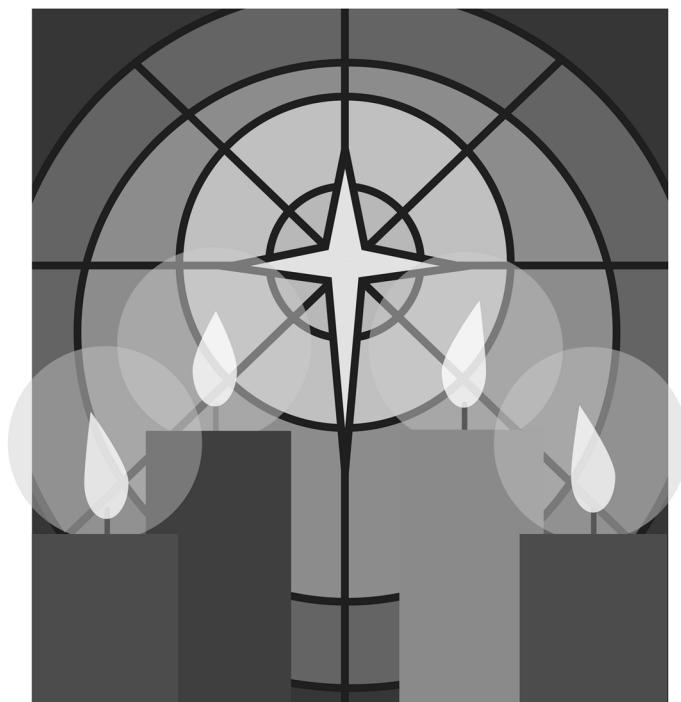
Verse 4: *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!* Refrain

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** (Romans 16:25-27)

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever!

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**



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**OF**  
*Advent*