

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2020 ✠ 5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jeff Binder

MUSICIANS: Bob Hinson, Jimmy Yohe, Janice Viestenz, Amelia Cardoza, Valley Bell Choir

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

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING VIDEO

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND ELEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH (The Rheingans Family)

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen by Austin)

LESSON ONE (Isaiah 9:1-2 read by Marshall Lauck)

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 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.

CAROL ONE No. 134 (Joy to the World)

Verse 1: *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.*

Verse 2: *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.*

Verse 3: *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.*

Verse 4: *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, wonders of his love.*

LESSON TWO (Isaiah 9:3-9 read by the Rheingans Family)

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL TWO No. 113 (Angels We Have Heard on High)

Verse 1: ***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.***

Refrain: ***Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

Verse 2: ***Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*** Refrain

Verse 3: ***Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*** Refrain

LESSON THREE (Luke 2:1-7 read by the Rev. Jeff Binder)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL THREE No. 115 (Away in a Manger)

Verse 1: ***Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

Verse 2: ***The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.***

Verse 3: ***Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.***

LESSON FOUR (Luke 2:8-14 read by Marshall Lauck)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

CAROL FOUR No. 123 (It Came Upon the Midnight Clear)

Verse 1: *It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

Verse 3: *Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we at war o earth hear not the tidings that they bring; O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!*

Verse 5: *For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets see of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

LESSON FIVE (Luke 2:15-20 read by the Rheingans Family)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL FIVE No. 121 (O Little Town of Bethlehem)

Verse 1: *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Verse 2: *For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

Verse 3: *How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

LESSON SIX (Matthew 2:1-11 read by the Rev. Jeff Binder)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL SIX No. 119 (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

Verse 1: ***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

Verse 2: ***Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

Verse 3: ***Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

MESSAGE ("Christmas Greetings" by the Rev. Jeff Binder)

OFFERTORY ("O Holy Night" by Adams; Jimmy Yohe, Baritone)

(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.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

LESSON SEVEN (John 1:1-14 read by Marshall Lauck)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CAROL SEVEN No. 122 (Silent Night, Holy Night!; Amelia Cardoza, soloist)

Verse 1: *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.*

Verse 2: *Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"*

Verse 3: *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.*

BLESSING AND SENDING

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen

POSTLUDE





**Poinsettias in the sanctuary have been given
in memory or honor of loved ones by the following friends and family:**

- The Rueff Family* Our Parents
- Cathy Bernhard* Milton Bernhard, Sarah Huntley, Mary Guest
- Barbara Symons* Ron Symons and Family
- The Viestenz Family* Dear Friends
- The Graham Family* Michael Graham
- Sharon Baker* Neil Baker
- The Bellis-Squires Family* Loved Ones
- Sherrie James* Lee James
- Mike Smyth* Everett and Shirley Smyth
- Mary Lee Marshall* Stanley Marshall
- The Sanderman Family* Family and Friends
- Bruce Armstrong* Jean Armstrong
- Pat Bird* Don Bird
- Julie Noonan* Frank Noonan
- The Phillips Family* Our Parents
- Ann Johnson* Robert and Virginia Johnson

