

# VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 27, 2020 † 10:00 AM  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
*Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone*

LEADER: Marshall Lauck  
LITURGIST: Ruthann Marquis  
MUSICIANS: Bob Hinson, Luke Smith  
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

WORDS OF PRAISE (Isaiah 61:10-11)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;

**For God has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

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.**

OPENING HYMN No. 151 (We Three Kings of Orient Are)

Verse 1: ***We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.***

Refrain: ***O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!***

Verse 2: ***Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.*** Refrain

Verse 3: ***Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh; prayer and praising gladly raising, worshipping God Most High.*** Refrain

Verse 4: ***Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*** Refrain

Verse 5: ***Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice. Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.*** Refrain

OPENING PRAYER (by Rev. Dr. Sean B. Murray)

Gracious, loving, God, as the light of your Word penetrates our hearts, as we are reminded of the gift of life and faith, as the glories of the heavenly hosts are echoed in our church, we open ourselves up to your Spirit and give you thanks. We are grateful, that your story has become our story, that we may walk in your ways and delight in your will. Help us, Lord God, to be the faithful, gracious, loving, giving, and forgiving people you would have us be.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 88 (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel) (Verse 5)

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE (Titus 3:4-5)

Hear this good news! When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 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 READING (Luke 2:22-40)

ANTHEM ("How Far is it to Bethlehem?" by Alec Rowley; Luke Smith, Tenor)

MESSAGE ("A Tradition of Hope" by Marshall Lauck)

## RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 150 (As with Gladness Men of Old)

Verse 1: *As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.*

Verse 2: *As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.*

Verse 3: *As they offered gifts most rare at thy mangers, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.*

Verse 4: *Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where thy need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Galatians 4:4-7)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because we are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So we are no longer slaves but children, and if children then also heirs, through God.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### OFFERTORY

(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. 147 (The First Nowell)

Verse 1: *The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain: *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

Verse 2: *They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.* Refrain

Verse 3: *And by the light of that same star three wise men came from county far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.* Refrain

Verse 4: *This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.* Refrain

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (John 1:5)

Friends, we have good news to share...

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Go out into the world sharing the good news of the Light of the World!

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## POSTLUDE