

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 † 10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Robin Garvin

LITURGIST: Angela Graham

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Siena Hertafeld, Sanctuary Choir

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Yvonne Rees

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (Bev Hubbard, Angela Graham)

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 Jeremiah: The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

We light this candle in hope.

Let us pray... God, we ask that you prepare our bodies, prepare our minds, and prepare our hearts for your coming to this world. Take root, grow within us, and blossom for all to see. Your kingdom come; your will be done.

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

ADVENT RESPONSE No. 88 (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

♦ WORDS OF PRAISE

O Lord, we lift our souls to you.

O God, in you we put our trust.

Make your ways known to us;

Lead us in your truth.

Good and upright are you, Lord.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep your covenant.

Let us worship God.

◆ 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 nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. 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 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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, we confess that our hearts have grown heavy with dissipation and worry. We have allowed our hope to wither, our faith to wander, and our love to grow cold. Forgive us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, the righteous branch of David, and restore us to your paths of steadfast love and faithfulness, O God of our salvation. Amen.

CONFESSONAL RESPONSE No. 108 (Of the Father's Love Begotten)

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

◆ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us setting us free to love and serve!

Friends, believe and now live the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 106 (Prepare the Way, O Zion)

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Luke 21:25-36)

ANTHEM ("Who You Say I Am" by Morgan and Fielding, arranged by Cliff Duren)

MESSAGE ("Hope for an Unfinished World" by Rev. Robin Garvin)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 98 (To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary)

Verse 1: *To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came. "Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news; good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."*

Verse 2: *"For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all, who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest; you are most blest, most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!"*

Verse 3: *But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word. What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear, to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.*

Verse 4: *"Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child. His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high. And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."*

Verse 5: *"How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife." The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God's child."*

Verse 6: *As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words. "Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God. "So be it; I am ready according to your word."*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the Confession of Belhar)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY ("Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus") (Offerings can be mailed to the church office or made online by visiting our website: www.valleycommunity.org)

◆ DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

◆ CLOSING HYMN No. 93 (Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates)

Verse 1: *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

Verse 2: *Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

Verse 3: *Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND SENDING MUSIC