

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 11, 2022 † 10:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Robin Garvin

LITURGIST: Michelle Blair

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Siena Hertafeld, Sanctuary Choir, Melodia Choir

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Jim Sandberg, Dean Bridges

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (The Teed Family)

The season of preparation is half over. We have heard John the Baptist's call to repentance. The day of the celebration of Christ's birth approaches and we wait in joyful anticipation, for Christ is not only our hope and our peace, Christ is also our joy. Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:10) We light this pink candle as a symbol of the light of Christ who has come and continues to come into the world. With Christ comes the light of joy.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord, our hope, our peace, our joy.

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

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.

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP (Philippians 4:4-5, adapted)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.

Let your gentleness be to known to everyone, for the Lord is near.

For the Spirit of God is upon us, because the Lord has called us to bring good news to the oppressed.

Let your joy be known to everyone, for the Lord is near.

Let us rejoice and worship the Lord with gladness!

◆ OPENING HYMN No. 140 (Once in Royal David's City)

Verse 1: ***Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.***

Verse 2: ***He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.***

Verse 3: ***Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.***

Verse 4: ***And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, prepare us for your coming. We are not yet ready. Too often, we think that joy comes from our will, rather than your will being done here on earth as it is in heaven. Forgive us Lord, for you are our hope, our peace, our joy, and our love. Lead us to your grace and mercy. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

CONFESSONAL RESPONSE No. 92 (While We Are Waiting, Come)

Verse 1: *While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

Verse 2: *With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

Verse 3: *Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

◆ ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Isaiah 61:10a)

Hear the words of assurance from the prophet Isaiah, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God. For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robes of righteousness. Friends, believe and now live the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 95 (Prepare the Way of the Lord) (Sung 2 times)

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.

OFFERTORY ("It Came Upon a Midnight Clear")

(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.*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

OPENING SONG ("On This Day Earth Shall Ring" sung by the Sanctuary Choir)

READING (Luke 1:26-31)

MARY, DID YOU KNOW (by Lowry/Greene; Siena Hertafeld, soloist)

READING (Luke 2:1-7)

AWAY IN THE MANGER (sung by Melodia Choir: Will Browning, Celeste Eggert, Henry Purcell, Lily Purcell, Zoe Ross, Ellinor Ross, Mabel Kennelly Ullman)

READING (Luke 2:8-12)

RISE UP SHEPHERD AND FOLLOW (Max Warner, soloist with Sanctuary Choir)

SHEPHERD'S SONG AT CHRISTMAS (Langston Hughes) - a poem by the shepherds

READING (Luke 2:15-16)

HYMN 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 4: ***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

READING (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10)

HYMN (We Three Kings of Orient Are) Congregation join the refrain.

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

HYMN No. 122 (Silent Night, Holy Night!)

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.***

Verse 4: ***Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born..***

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SENDING MUSIC

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Cast:

Angel of Annunciation..... Hayden Bach
Mary's Angels..... Claire Bedsaul, Kaia Boyle, Ciara Crouse,
..... Georgia Hoffbeck, Macy Vermillion, Sophie Vermillion
MaryKatie Craig
Joseph.....Jake Hobbs
Angel of the ShepherdsMax Warner
ShepherdsNick Browning, Turner Sanderman, Henry Teed
Wisemen..... Eric Browning, Kjel Carlson, Lars Hoffbeck
Reader.....David Sanderman

Director of Staging and ChoreographyLizz Brown
Director of MusicThomas Rheingans
Sanctuary Choir Director Siena Hertafeld
Director of Youth and Children's Music Amy Rheingans
Costume Design Jini De Vries

