

# VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2022 † 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY

*Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone*

PASTOR: Rev. Robin Garvin

LITURGIST: Andrea Murdoch

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Siena Hertafeld

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Dan Rueff, Dean Bridges

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

#### ◆ CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is born!

**Alleluia!**

Jesus is among us!

**Alleluia!**

The Word has become flesh!

**Alleluia!**

Let us worship our newborn King!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

#### ◆ OPENING HYMN 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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the highest heaven and the humble manger, we gather on Christmas day with glad hearts.

Familiar carols lift our spirits; familiar faces bring a smile to our lips. Yet we confess our Christmas joy often doesn't last. Worries cast a shadow over the manger. Business as usual waits outside the stable door.

Forgive us when we rush through Christmas and miss the gifts you offer us in the Christ Child. Give us grace to make room in our hearts for the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love you freely give this day! We pray in the name of Jesus our newborn King! Amen.

## CONFESSONAL RESPONSE No. 114 (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.*

### ◆ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sin, removing it as far as the east is from the west, and remembering it no more. 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. 136 (Go, Tell It on the Mountain)

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Verse 1: *While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.* Refrain

Verse 2: *The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.* Refrain

Verse 3: *Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.* Refrain

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (John 1:1-14)

ANTHEM ("Christmas Lullaby" by Amy Grant; Siena Hertafeld, vocalist)

MESSAGE ("The Christmas Pageant" by Rev. Robin Garvin)

## RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

### ◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE 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!"*

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from *The Scots Confession*)

When the fullness of time came God sent a Son, the eternal wisdom, the substance of God's own glory, into this world to be born of a woman and the Holy Spirit. This was how the Messiah was born, the one promised to God's people, Emmanuel, God with us. His birth blesses our birth. His life gives us new life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (found on page 35 of the hymnal)

OFFERTORY ("O Christmas Tree")

(Offerings can be mailed to 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 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. 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!*

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SENDING MUSIC