



December 3, 2017

West Valley Presbyterian Church

This morning's theme: Jesus: The Long-Awaited King

Called to Worship

Call to Worship: Isaiah 2:2-5

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the saints Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing, news glad tidings of a birth
Go to him your praises bringing, Christ the Lord has come to earth

Come, to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy precious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1-3 (page 8)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, the patient faith of Mary and Joseph. By your Spirit, make us ready for Jesus' coming. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it
Mount of God's unchanging love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here by thy great help I'm come
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

O that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in blood-washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless day

Declaring the Faith: The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

Once in royal David's city

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother lay her baby
in a manger for his bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little child

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 mean and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy

3. For he 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 with us our sadness
And he shares with us our gladness

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Tithes and Offerings

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Angels we have on heard high

Sweetly singing ore the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Gloria in excelsis Deo

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise
Gloria in excelsis Deo

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Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
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Compelled to Go Out

Commission & Benediction: Romans 15:12-13

Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments following the service!

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Community and Events

This week:

- Today:** **Prayer Night** – 6-7pm at church
 Youth Group –7-8pm at church, after Prayer Night
- Tuesday:** **Woman’s Bible study** – 7.30pm at church.
- Thursday:** **Men’s Bible study** – 7.30pm at church.
- Saturday:** **Women’s Bible study** - 8am at Panera (Trexlerstown)

Announcements:

Advent Devotional – To receive an email each week day with Scripture readings, questions to consider and prayer pointers during advent, sign up at westvalleypres.org/advent. Physical copies are also available at the back of church.

Christmas Eve Services – December 24th, 9:30am and 7pm. Invite your friends to join us for carol singing and a short message about the true meaning of Christmas.

Adopt a Student – Sign up at the back if you’d like to host a college student or if you’re a student who’d like to connect with a family.

Opportunities to Serve:

Food Drive – We are looking to collect 150 boxes of hot chocolate for the East Penn Angel Network. Please bring in boxes by the end of the day **today**.

Spirit of the Lehigh Valley Dinner – For families in need at the Route 78 Holiday Inn **12/24 1-3:30pm**

Salvation Army Dinner – Starting **11:30am on 12/31** at Bethlehem Salvation Army

Small Groups:

Bible Studies – This fall our men’s and women’s Bible studies will be exploring the book of Exodus. See details above.

Growth Groups - These groups meet regularly to discuss the sermon, see Pastor Mark for more information

Young Adults Group – Meets for lunch and Bible study every other week, Sunday at 12pm at the Howards’. Contact: brian.stenson@dm.org.

Memory Verse

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

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*Growing disciples of Jesus
at home, at work and in our communities
through the Word, prayer and mutual encouragement*

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