

December 20, 2015



West Valley Presbyterian Church

worship as communal exchange . Trinity God renews us, and we respond

Theme: Christmas is good news for those who admit they need God's help

CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Reading: John 1:1-4, 14-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

(song) Once in Royal David's City

*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*

*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*

*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*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love
For that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above
And he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone*

prayer

(song) O Come O Come Emmanuel

*O come, o come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here until the son of God appear,
Rejoice! rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient time didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Second Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

prayer of confession

(all) God of grace, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. By our actions and attitudes we condone what you condemn. Help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

declaration: Matthew 1:21

(leader)

“You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

(song) What Child is This?

*What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

greeting, children and announcements

prayer for the congregation and the world

(song) Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

(song and offering) Hark the Herald Angels Sing

*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!"*

*Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

COMPELLED TO GO OUT

benediction . John 1:14

(leader) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. From his fullness may you receive grace upon grace. Amen.