



December 16, 2018

West Valley Presbyterian Church

This morning's theme: True Joy in the True Savior

Called to Worship

Call to Worship: Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Good Christian men rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow,
And He is in the manger now
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men 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 His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 (page 595)

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, light of the world, we confess that we have walked in darkness: we confess our willingness to be loved but our reluctance to love; We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but our refusal to forgive; We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Words of Assurance: 1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Joy Has Dawned

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love, Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life, shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands, prophesy the stor-y.
Gold a King is born today, incense God is with us,
Myrrh His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious mystery!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

Declaring our Faith: Philippians 2:5-11

Jesus Christ, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be exploited; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen; let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To save all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.

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.

Greeting and Announcements

Sunday school classes for pre-K, grades K-1, and grades 2-3 are available during the sermon.

Mary's Song (Our King of Peace)

My Soul magnified the Lord;
My spirit rejoices in God!
My Savior has seen his servant in need,
And behold the great things He has done:

*Oh, behold, my Savior has come!
And my soul will tell of His praise
For He Who is strong has come to the weak
And, at last, He will reign as our King of Peace*

He scatters the proud and rich;
He lifts up the humble and weak.
The kings of the earth, He casts from their thrones
And the hungry He welcomes to feast

From now to the end of time
The nations will know me as blest
For God has made new His promise of love
And mercy through Abraham's seed

Communion in Sacrament

Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:28

Prayer of thanksgiving

Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for calling us out of the darkness and into your glorious light. When we remember the price you paid, the death of your only Son, we can only wonder and marvel at the greatness of your love. We give our lives to you Lord, and pray that through your Spirit you would teach us how to live according to your will. Send us out now to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of your mercy. We pray this in Jesus name. 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

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 th'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 the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with us 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 Sun 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

Commission: 1 Peter 2:9-10

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments following the service!

Community and Events

This week:

- Today:** **Young Adults Christmas Party** – 12pm at the Howards’
 Youth Group Christmas Party – 6:30pm-8pm
- Saturday:** **Women’s Bible Study** – 8am at Panera, Trexlertown

Announcements:

Gift Drive – Gifts for the family we are supporting are due today. Please leave them over on the long table in the fellowship area.

Library – Visit the church library and discover some great resources to help you and your family focus on Christ this advent season!

Christmas Eve Service – Monday, December 24th at 7pm. Invite a friend for this service of lessons and carols, including a short message about the true meaning of Christmas.

Bible Studies – The midweek men’s and women’s studies will start back up in January with a new series in *Luke’s Gospel*.

The Coyle’s New Address – 23 Elkrun Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211

More information about Bible Studies and small groups can be found at:

www.westvalleypres.org/groups

Memory Verse

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 1:32-33

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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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