



December 23, 2018

West Valley Presbyterian Church

This morning's theme: God's Promise of Rescue

Called to Worship

Call to Worship: Luke 1:68-75

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.

That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham

To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Angels From The Realm of Glory

Angels from the realm of glory,
Wing our flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim the Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (page 662)

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming again. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Matthew 1:21

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
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

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave

O come, thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight

O come, thou Key of David come
And open wide our heav'nly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path of misery

Declaring our Faith: John 1:1-5, 14

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.

Mary's Song (Our King Of Peace)

*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*

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

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

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.

If you are visiting us, please fill out one of the welcome cards in front of your seat and drop it in the offering plate when it is passed.

Scripture: Luke 1:57-80 (page 856)

Message: Growing in Confidence

Pastor Mark Howard

Notes: _____

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

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through
The cross be borne for me, for you
Hail, hail the Word made flesh
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
Raise, raise a song on high
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born
The Babe, the Son of Mary

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

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

Compelled to Go Out

Commission & Benediction: *from Malachi 4:2 and Philippians 4:7*

May Jesus Christ, the Sun of righteousness, who comes with healing in his wings, fill you with joy and peace that passes all understanding.

And may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Please stay for coffee and refreshments following the service!

Join us TOMORROW at 7pm for our Christmas Eve service

This week:

Tomorrow: **Christmas Eve Service** – 7pm at church

Tuesday: **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Announcements:

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.

Discipleship Focus: Life At Work

Beginning in the new year our focus will be on living for Christ at the various places we work. Here are a few things we have planned. See the green flyer for more info

Friday Night Fellowships – A family-friendly way to connect over dessert and discuss important topics like relationships at work, sharing the gospel at work and true success at work. January 25th, February 22nd and March 29th, 6pm-7:30pm (including kids activities).

Bible Studies – Our own work is only meaningful because of the work of Christ. Therefore, the midweek men's and women's studies will start back up in the new year with a series in *Luke's Gospel*.

Sermon Series – Growing Faith (Genesis 12-25) – As we consider the life of Abraham, Genesis provides some gritty, realistic insights into what it means to 'grow strong in faith' (Romans 4:20).

Women's Brunch – Saturday, March 9th, 9am-12pm. Speaker: Ellen Dykes (Harvest USA)

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

www.westvalleypres.org/groups

Next week's sermon text: Luke 2:22-40

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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