

This morning's theme: True Hope in Christ

# Called to Worship

### Call to Worship: Hebrews 4:15-16

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### <u>O Come All Ye Faithful</u>

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem Come and behold him Born the king of angels

> Oh, come, let us adore him Oh, come, let us adore him Oh, come, let us adore him Christ, the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above Glory to God, all glory in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet thee Born this happy morning Jesus, to thee be glory given Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

## Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

### Confessing our Sin

# Prayer of Confession

O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are an unfaithful people; our only hope is that you should come and help us. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

# Words of Assurance: Isaiah 40

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.

### Celebrating the Gospel

### <u>Thou Who Wast Rich</u>

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, All for love's sake becamest poor; Thrones for a manger did surrender, Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor. Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, All for love's sake becamest man; Stooping so low, but sinners raising Heavenwards by thine eternal plan. Thou who art God beyond all praising, All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee. Emmanuel, within us dwelling, Make us what thou would have us be. Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

### Announcements – see page 7

### Pastoral Prayer

*I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.* 1 Timothy 2:1–2.

## <u>The Lord's Prayer</u>

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.

<u>**Kids Ministry</u>** – Sunday school will be available for PreK – 3rd grade during the sermon. Please take your kids into the narthex during the next song. They will be brought back into the service during the final song.</u>

## 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 Saviour 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 heaven above: And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.

### Consecrated by the Word

### Scripture Reading: Romans 7:1-25

#### <u>Message</u>: True Hope In Christ

Pastor Mark Howard

Notes:\_\_\_

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## 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 lamb 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.

## 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.

### **Tithes and Offerings**

An offering box is available near the exit. Alternatively, please consider giving online at westvalleypres.org/give. For more info visit the "giving info" link on our website.

### Compelled to Go Out

#### Commission: Luke 9:23

Jesus says "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

### Benediction: 1 Peter 5:10-11

After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

This week		
Today:	<b>Youth and Young Adults Christmas Party</b> – 11am in the Fellowship Hall	
Tuesday:	Women's Bible Study – 7:30pm in the choir room	
Thursday:	Men's Bible Study – 7:30pm in the choir room	
Friday:	<b>Prayer Call</b> – 7am (see details below)	
Saturday:	Women's Bible Study – 8am via Zoom & at the Kims	

#### Announcements

**Youth and Young Adults Christmas Party, TODAY -** following the worship service. Festive food and fun! Please bring a gently used item or purchase an item for less than \$10 for the White Elephant Game.

**Family Advent Devotional** – Pick up a free copy of *The Adventures Of Christmas* at the welcome desk. This book contains 25 short and engaging devotions for families of all ages! If you are starting late, just use the "starred" readings.

**Christmas Eve Service** – Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Invite a friend to join us for scripture readings, carols, and a short message.

**Bible Studies: Advent Series -** We'll be studying Luke 1-2 through advent. Study guides are available at the Welcome Desk.

**Friday Prayer Call** – *Every Friday, 7am.* Join us for this brief, 15minute dial-in prayer time to focus your heart on the Lord and seek his help! Just dial 518-992-1099 and enter code 636625 on Fridays at 7am.

**Warm Clothing Drive** – To benefit VAST (Valley Against Sex Trafficking) please place donations of NEW clothing in the box by the welcome desk between Sunday 12/19 and Sunday 12/26. Suggestions include women's: socks, gloves, hats, scarves, sweat shirts, sweat pants, underwear, jackets. If you have questions you can contact Alice Kim at akim1997@gmail.com

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23

**Contact Information** 

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### Ministries

Men: Mark Howard	mark@westvalleypres.org
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# Our mission: Growing disciples of Jesus at home, at work and in our communities through the Word, prayer and mutual encouragement

### **Meeting Location**

9:30am at 1208 Brookside Rd, Wescosville (Bethany's Wescosville Campus) www.westvalleypres.org | 610-421-8066 | PO Box 3741, Allentown, PA 18106