

This morning's theme: Free in Christ

# 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.

# 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 times did'st 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 victory o'er the grave

O come, Thou Day-Spring, from on high And cheer us by thy drawing nigh. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight. O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heavenly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

### Scripture Reading: John 8:31-36

## Confessing our Sin

# 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. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for Jesus' coming. 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.

#### Celebrating the Gospel

## 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

#### 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.

## Angels From the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye, who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

> Come and worship! Come and worship! Worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing Yonder shines the infant light.

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen his natal star.

Saints, before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear; Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.

Sinners, wrung with true repentance, Doomed for guilt to endless pains, Justice now revokes the sentence, Mercy calls you, break your chains. Though an infant now we view Him, He shall fill His Father's throne, Gather all nations to Him; Every knee shall then bow down:

### 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.

# Consecrated by the Word

## Scripture Reading: Romans 6:15-23

**Message:** Free In Christ

Pastor Mark Howard

Notes:\_\_\_\_\_

## From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable

From the squalor of a borrowed stable By the spirit of a virgin's faith To the anguish and the shame of scandal Came the savior of the human race But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven Shepherds listen as the angels tell Of the gift of God come down to man At the dawning of Emmanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners Humble servant in the Father's hands Filled with power and the Holy Spirit Filled with mercy for the broken man Yes he walked my road and he felt my pain Joys and sorrows that I know so well Yet his righteous steps give me hope again I will follow my Emmanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal He was lifted on a cruel cross He was punished for a world's transgressions He was suffering to save the lost He fights for breath, he fights for me Loosing sinners from the chains of hell And with a shout our souls are free Death defeated by Emmanuel

Now he's standing in the place of honour Crowned with glory on the highest throne Interceding for his own beloved Till his father calls to bring them home Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds Hope of heaven or the fear of hell But the bride will run to her lover's arms Giving glory to Emmanuel *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.

## <u>Go Tell it on the Mountain</u>

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy Light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth, Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born And brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn!

## **<u>Tithes and Offerings</u>**

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: Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

## Benediction: Malachi 4:2

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.

This week		
Today:	Youth Group – 6pm in the Choir Room	
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)	
<b>Parent's Night Out</b> – 5pm-8pm in Fellowship Ha		
Saturday:	Women's Bible Study – 8am via Zoom & at the Kims	
	<b>Craft Morning</b> – 10am in Fellowship Hall	

#### Announcements

**Parents' Night Out/Kid's Christmas Party** – **Friday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** Drop your kids off from 5pm-8pm in the Fellowship Hall, while you have a night out or Christmas shop! For more info contact Cassie (<u>clwells94@gmail.com</u>) or sign up now at westvalleypres.org/parents.

**Craft Morning** - Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a morning of Christmas crafting on **Saturday**, **Dec 11**<sup>th</sup>, **10am**! Children are welcome. Sign up now at westvalleypres.org/crafts.

Youth and Young Adults Christmas Party, December 12th - 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. Sign up at westvalleypres.org/party. Questions? Contact Liz (weziegenfus@gmail.com) or Anthony (falconeanthony525@gmail.com).

**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!

**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. 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

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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