



December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

# West Valley Presbyterian Church

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*This morning's theme: Christ, Our True Freedom*

## Called to Worship

### **Call to Worship: Luke 1:68-75**

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

**All: 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.**

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

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

All: 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 We Have Heard On High**

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains

*Gloria . . . in excelsis Deo*  
*Gloria . . . in excelsis Deo*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavn'ly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see,  
Christ whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord the newborn King

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3**

**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: 1 John 4:9-11**

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**Dear Refuge Of My Weary Soul**

Dear refuge of my weary soul  
On Thee when sorrows rise  
On Thee when waves of trouble roll  
My fainting hope relies  
To Thee I tell each rising grief  
For Thou alone canst heal  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief  
For every pain I feel

But oh when gloomy doubts prevail  
I fear to call Thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail  
And all my hopes decline  
Yet gracious God where shall I flee  
Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Though prostrate in the dust

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face  
And shall I seek in vain  
And can the ear of sovereign grace  
Be deaf when I complain  
No still the ear of sovereign grace  
Attends the mourner's prayer  
Oh may I ever find access  
To breathe my sorrows there

Thy mercy seat is open still  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will  
And wait beneath Thy feet  
Thy mercy seat is open still  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will  
And wait beneath Thy feet

### **Announcements** (page 7)

#### **The Baptism of Margo Fox**

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 28:19–20.

#### **The Lord's 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 Time**

##### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

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  
Christ, the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above  
Glory to God In the highest  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him  
Christ, the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus, to thee be glory given  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him  
Christ, the Lord

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

*Mark Howard*

**Message: True Freedom in Christ**

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*To discuss over coffee:*

- How does Jesus' teaching about *freedom* compare to the ways we commonly use the word today?
- What does it mean to “abide” in Jesus' word (v.31)? What pressures do you currently face that might keep you from doing this?

## 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.**

### **Rejoice The Lord Is King**

Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and king adore;  
Mortals give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior, reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When He had purged our stains  
He took His seat above;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and Heav'n,  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus giv'n;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand,  
till all His foes submit.  
And bow to his command  
and fall beneath his feet.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Jesus the Judge shall come,  
And take His servants up  
To their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear  
the archangel's voice, the trump of God  
shall sound, rejoice

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

### **Tithes and Offerings**

*An offering box is available near the exit. Alternatively, please consider giving online at [westvalleypres.org/give](http://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: Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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***WELCOME!*** *If you are new to West Valley, we are glad you joined us this morning. Please scan this code or visit [westvalleypres.org/welcome](http://westvalleypres.org/welcome) to fill out our welcome card.*

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## Weekly Growth Groups

- Sunday** – *Young Adults, 12:00pm at the Foxes'*
- Tuesday** – *Kims' Home Group, 7:00pm*  
*Women's, 7:00pm in the choir room*
- Wednesday** – *Howards' Home Group, 7:00pm*
- Thursday** – *Men's, 6:30am at the Wegmans on Tilghman St.*  
*Men's, 7:00pm in the choir room*
- Friday** – *Women's, 9:30am, every other week at the*  
*Goonewardenes' (childcare available, please let*  
*Joanne know if needed) 12/1*
- Saturday** – *Women's, 9:00am*

*Growth Groups are small gatherings of Christians who are committed together to moving people toward maturity in Christ. We encourage everyone to join at least one group to explore God's Word, pray together, and support one another. For details visit [westvalleypres.org/groups](http://westvalleypres.org/groups).*

**Youth Group Christmas Party** – Join us this Friday (12/8) at 6pm in the gym for dinner, dodgeball, and a Pollyanna gift exchange (limit \$15). *RSVP to Shawn Goonewardene at [goonewardene@yahoo.com](mailto:goonewardene@yahoo.com).*

**Women's Christmas Breakfast** – This Saturday (12/9) from 8-10am at the Miller's. *RSVP to Amy at 484-560-2758 if you plan on attending.*

**Christmas Caroling** – You can sign up for caroling via [westvalleypres.org/caroling!](http://westvalleypres.org/caroling!)

**Congregational Meeting** – Sunday, 12/17 in the sanctuary directly after the service. We will be voting on Elder & Deacon nominees (check your email for a list of candidates).

**Christmas Eve Service 10:00am & 7:00pm** – Join us at 10:00am for Sunday morning worship and at 7:00pm for readings and carols on Christmas Eve. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

**Monday Prayer Call** – Join us on Mondays from 7:00am-7:15am via Zoom to pray for the world, the nation, and the church. It is now exclusively dial-in; call (646)-558-8656 and enter meeting code 820 8319 4443.

This Month's Memory Verse:

*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. – John 1:14*

Contact Information

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**Ministry Contacts:**

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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**

10:00am at 1208 Brookside Rd, Wescosville  
(Bethany's Wescosville Campus)

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