

This morning's theme: True Family in Christ

## 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.

#### 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.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 66:1-2

## Confessing Our Sin

#### **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: 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

#### **Immanuel**

From the squalor of a borrowed stable by the spirit of a virgins 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 fathers 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

#### **Declaring Our Faith**: John 1

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.

## **Announcements** (page 7)

#### **Prayer**

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.

1 Tim. 2:1-2

## 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**

### **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Come thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free From our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the Saints thou art, Dear desire of ev'ry 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

Conscituted by the Word	_
<u>Scripture Reading</u> : John 8:31-47 <u>Message</u> : God's True Family	Mark Howard

Consecrated by the Word


#### To discuss over coffee:

- What are the marks that we belong to God's true family? How does this challenge and encourage you personally?
- What are some practical ways to prioritized God's family as we celebrate Christmas?

### **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: John 20:21

Jesus says, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

## Benediction: Malachi 4:2 & 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.

**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 to fill out our welcome card.



## Weekly Growth Groups

**Tuesday** – Kims' Home Group, 7:00pm

Women's, 7:00pm in the choir room

**Wednesday** – *Howards' Home Group*, 7:00pm

Lantzes' Home Group, 5:30pm

**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) 12/15

**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.

**Sunday School** – There will be *no adult Sunday School next week* (12/17). Kid's Sunday School will continue to meet at 9:00am.

**Congregational Meeting** – *Next 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 Caroling** –You can sign up for caroling via westvalleypres.org/caroling!

**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.

**Church Directory** – Our 'opt-in' online directory is available at westvalleypres.org/directory where you can also update your information. If you need help, please contact office@westvalleypres.org.

# 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

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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) www.westvalleypres.org | 610-421-8066 | PO Box 3741, Allentown 18106