



December 17th, 2023

West Valley Presbyterian Church

This morning's theme: Faith in God's Son

Called to Worship

Call to Worship: Micah 5:2, 4-5

O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

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.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 37:1-9

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: Isaiah 40:1

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

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

Declaring Our Faith: *Psalm 23*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Announcements (*page 7*)

Prayer

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

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heavnly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

To discuss over coffee:

- Is “Believe!” a good or bad slogan for the holidays? Why?
- If you believe in Jesus, what are you hoping He will do for you? How does that compare to what he promises in John 8?

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.

Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

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: Ephesians 5:2

Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Benediction: Romans 15:12-13

Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” 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.

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

- Sunday** – *Young Adults*, meets today at Panera, after the congregational meeting
- Tuesday** – *Kims' Home Group*, 7:00pm
Women's, 7:00pm in the choir room
- Wednesday** – *Lantzes' Home Group*, 5:30pm
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)
- 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.

Congregational Meeting – Today, in the Sanctuary, directly after the service.

No Sunday School – There will be *no adult or kids Sunday School next week (12/24) or New Year's Eve (12/31)*.

Christmas Eve Service 10:00am & 7:00pm – Join us next week 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

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