



The Birth of the Christ
December 24, 2023 7:00 p.m.
Sacrament of Communion

PRELUDE

Come to Bethlehem

Arr. D.E. Wagner

CHOIR PROCESSION

INTROIT

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP/ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the Nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness, from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

✠ **OPENING HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High* 113

CALL TO PRAYER

L: The ends of the earth have witnessed the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

P: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

L: Splendor of God's eternal glory, mighty Word sustaining the universe: renew our lives by your presence.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: Savior born into a world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation: Release all in freedom.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: Begotten of God before all time, born in a Bethlehem stable,
may your church be a sign of hope & joy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: Truly God and truly human, born in fulfillment of expectations,
fulfill our best desires in you.

P: Lord, have mercy.

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of grace and truth, you created light in the midst of darkness, you brought forth life from sea and rock. You formed us in your own image, to love you and care for all creation. At times we have been unfaithful, turning from your truths; yet you did not forsake us, even when your way seemed harsh your love remained steadfast. Holy God born in humility; Jesus came to redeem us all! Helpless and dependent as an infant, Jesus showed the power of your love. Poor in things of this world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by each in turn, he welcomed all who sought him. Empower us by your spirit, to be Christ's presence in the world for others, even as Jesus is God-with-us. By your grace, grant us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, to love with his compassion. (Silent prayer) Amen

✠ **HYMN** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 119

ANTHEM Little Yeshua G. Rhodes/Arr. M. Hayes
Soloist: Les Walter

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who

heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“REALITY CHECK”

✠ **HYMN** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verses 1,4,5) 123

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY *How Majestic Is Your Name* M. W. Smith/Arr. T. Fettke

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise You name, we magnify Your name:

Prince of Peace, Mighty God; O Lord God Almighty.

His glorious name shall be called Wonderful,

His matchless name shall be called Counselor,

The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father,

The Prince of Peace through all eternity!

****Please print your name in the fellowship register: Friendship Pads in the pews are a great way to meet your neighbor.***

***** If you have a special prayer request, please fill out the blue card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. There is also a box in the Narthex you may place it in as well. Our Pastors and Prayer Ministry Team will Pray for your request.***

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Invitation

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(In front of each seating section are a pair of Ordained leaders, please receive the body of Christ for you, then the Cup of the new Covenant, depositing the cup and taking Christ's candle to your place. If you cannot come forward, please raise your hand and we will come to serve you.)

✠ All those who are able, please stand.

All Worship Services are available for replay on our website.

www.valleypres.net

POINSETTIAS PURCHASED BY AND IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

Agner, John & Jan

Aguayo, Judy

Beth Phillips

Barney, Dick & Marilyn

My Sister, Lora Meburst

Bont, Don & Ann

Our Parents

Brouwer, Mike & Kay

Our Parents

Brown, Cindy

Bruce, Joe & Lesley

Ethel Bruce

Christensen, Dick & Judy

Loved Ones

Conner, Jim & Cheryl

Lee & Don Conner, Lillian & Thom Conway

Entwistle, Bill & Ellen

Frahm, Ken & Sheila

Our Families

Fredrickson, Eloise

Pat Nau

Garnet, Bruce & Diane

Our Daughter, Tami

Giles, Barbra

Bob & Katherine Giles, Bob & Peg Cummings

Green, John & Sandy

Debbie & Loved Ones

Gunneman, Carol

Norm TenBrink

Haynes, Liz

Parents & to the Glory of God

Hein, Jean

My Husband, Marvin Hein & the Observance of
advent

Hennigar, Sara

My Husband, Bill Hennigar

Hester, Linda	Don Hester, Walter Micallef & My Mother, Betty Ratzsch
Holthofer, Karen	Dave Tompkins
Jackson, John & Abby	Yale & Pat Charbonneau, Carl & Belle Jackson
Joplin, Kylene	My Sister, Carol Stephens
Joung, Donaldina	My Parents and Grandson Brandon
Kucera, Linda	Jannette Lary, & Margaret Burreson
Kwak, Norman & Sandy	
Lillie, Bob & Mary	Peace on Earth
MacFarlane, Tom & Lois	Loved Ones
Menefee, Paula	My Parents
Morrison, Anne	My Family
Nicholson, Lois	My Husband, William (Bill) Nicholson
Nylund, Bruce & Carmen	
Piotrowski, Linda	My Husband, Richard, & My Parents Frank & Kay
Plake, Ken & Janet	Louise Plake & Carolyn Everson
Raine, Lady	Patty Pulz
Ramsay, Chuck & Maureen	Our Parents
Rusk, Jim & Kathie	Our Parents
Sells, Kristine	My Husband, Chuck Sells
Singleton, Betty	
Storey, Ed & Nancy	Our Family
Tompkins, Gayle	My Husband, David Tompkins
Van Vactor, Martha	My Sister, Dixie
Wigent, Gerry	John & Grace Provost, Katherine Provost



WELCOME to all who enter this place. Drink deeply of the living waters of God's grace as we worship together in spirit.

VISITORS: Consider yourself at home while you are here! Please enjoy a cup of coffee, lemonade and a cookie while visiting the Visitor's Table in Fellowship Hall after the church worship service. You can pick up a Visitor's Information Packet at the Visitor's Table or the Welcome Centers. If you would like to receive more information about us, visit us at valleypres.net where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter.

Children are invited to worship in the sanctuary then attend Sunday School after Children's Time.



2800 S. Camino del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
Telephone: (520) 625-5023

Web: www.valleypresbyterian.net

Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net

We are a Stephen Ministry Church



REV. DR. CRAIG LINDSEY, *Head of Staff*

REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Associate
Pastor of Discipleship*

CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*

JAMIE REED, *Director of Music*

JAN BRACHEL, *Organist/Accompanist*

REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*