



CHRISTMAS DAY
December 25, 2022

PRELUDE

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

J.C. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chuck Ramsay

Greetings! I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace good will towards all.

✠ **OPENING HYMN**

Joy to the World

134

✠ **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

L: On this day, Earth does ring. We stand at the center of history and the center of time. We stand with the poor who have long awaited their deliverance. We stand with all those for whom there is no room in any inn — and know that their shelter is now assured. We stand with the brokenhearted, knowing that Jesus Christ is Lord and that no circumstance can separate us from the love of God. All this — and more, in the form of a child!

P: Thanks be to you, Almighty God, before whom even the valleys are made strong and the mountains humbled. Amen.

ANTHEM

Glad Tidings of Joy

M. Hayes

O tidings of comfort and joy.
We bring glad tidings to all people this day.
We bring glad tidings of great joy.
We bring a message of peace and light.
This is the season of joy!
Joy to the world, for the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her newborn King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

We celebrate with the angels on high
Who sang announcing His birth.
We celebrate that a Savior is born
Who brings us peace to the earth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
We bring you great joy!
We bring you tidings, a reason to rejoice!

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS THROUGH MARY'S EYES

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:19

Pastor Diane

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

MARY'S PONDERINGS

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary (verses 1 & 2) 98

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not" the angel told her, "I come to bring good news.
Good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news"

For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
You are most blest, most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!"

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 2) 121

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 2) 115

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus a sleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

CHILDREN'S TIME

The First Nowell (verses 1 & 2)

147

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor Shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth is gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

There's a Star in the East (verses 1 & 2)

135

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

What Child Is This (verses 1 & 3)

145

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!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night with Clair de lune

C. Debussy, A. Adam/Arr. M. Wilson

**If you haven't already done so, please print your name in the Fellowship Register.*

☩ CAROL

We Three Kings of Orient Are (verse 1)

151

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse a far,
fields and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
West ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

✦ A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room in the inn.

I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Savior.

I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud, and with his life, showed that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger. I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.

✦ SENDING HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* 132

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BIBLE REFLECTIONS—MONDAY, JANUARY 9, AT 1:00 P.M.

We invite you to join Pastor Craig in a discussion of what the Bible means. Chapter by chapter each week; in-person in Classroom 5 and on Zoom. This class is recorded and available on the VPC website. Genesis Chapter 42.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS THE MESSIAH: HIS FINAL WEEK: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10 AT 11:00 A.M. IN CLASSROOM 5. We will attempt to understand the Temple, referring to the *Misnah*, biblical texts, rabbinical teaching, and archeology to see how the sacrifices, feasts and rituals foreshadowed the Messiah Himself and His Saving Work. Your teacher Bud Landry.

FLOWERS FOR SANCTUARY: If you would like to honor someone in your family or celebrate an event with flowers, please sign up in Fellowship Hall after the Service. The Flowers for the Sanctuary are \$55. If you prefer, you may use a debit/credit card online to order your flowers. Just go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM77/home> and make your selection.

FRIENDSHIP KETTLE DINNERS will resume on January 15, 2023. We'll get to see how much fun the line dancers had this summer learning their steps under the guidance of Steve Hart. Sweet Peas Catering will again provide their excellent meals. For January: Chicken in sun dried tomato cream sauce, wild rice blend, sauteed green bean and apple cobbler. Tickets (\$15) will be available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays January 1 and 8.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 26.

IN HONOR OF CHRISTMAS DAY.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
November-2022		Through Week 51 (12/18/22)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 48,213	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	266
Monthly Giving Budget	59,679	* YTD 2022 Attendance Sanctuary	11,244
*YTD Giving Support	651,753	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	111
*YTD Giving Budget	677,567	** YTD 2022 Viewing On-Line	8,596
		* YTD 2022 Attendance / On-Line	19,840
		* YTD 2021 Attendance Sanctuary	7,538
<small>* YTD = Year to Date ** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service</small>			
<small>D. Brooks - VPC treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959 2022 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member</small>			

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.

We are glad you have joined us today.



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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*
WES MOULTON, *Organist/Accompanist*
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*