



**December 20, 2020**

**GREETING**

Pastor Craig

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

**PASSING OF PEACE, OUTPOURING OF THE WATER**

**PRELUDE**

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

(with "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" from The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky)

Arr. L.McKechnie

Jamie Reed - Piano, Wes Moulton - Organ

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES**

Pastor Diane

**L:** In a world where peace seems to be so far away, we call upon the Prince of Peace to come. In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Peace into our World. Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. The messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "Do not be afraid. The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God coming into our lives in a new way.

**P: Come down to us again, O Lord. We long to be your people, a people of peace.**

\*please stand

Sing

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

(verse 1)

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.

**L:** We light the candle of hope. We light the candle of love. We light the candle of joy.  
We light the candle of peace. We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the  
promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into  
that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing  
world, is a peace that passes all understanding.

**OPENING HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

82

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

from  
Israel's  
dear

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now the gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

**CALL TO PRAYER**

In this Advent Season of waiting, we are made even more aware that God's ways are not  
our ways. We plan and schedule, only to be confounded by the ways of the world. May  
we pause from our routine and distractions, letting go our control to listen for God's  
purposes and designs that may have seemed unrevealed.

**THE UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

LORD of Lords and King of Kings, we are forever moving, plotting and plodding, trying to  
get ahead. In this time of awaiting your Peace, empower us to wait and wonder, to look  
for revelations we never would have witnessed. As difficult as everything is this year, we  
have tried to make Christmas perfect; but you already have made Christmas perfect.  
Not with presents, gatherings, cards or wishes, but the gift of your child for us! The gift  
of innocence in a world of dominance, the gift of peace in our anxiety, the gift of your  
answering the prayers we did not think to offer. Dear God, we pray that you might use

us, even us, as instruments of your peace, to share with those most in need faith and trust in you. Amen

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The words are so simple and pure, but the meaning of this time in our lives is “God so loved the world, God gave God’s only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have ever-lasting life.”

### **RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING**     *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Have Thine own way, Lord, Have Thine own way;  
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me After Thy will,  
While I am waiting, Yielded and still.

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **ANTHEM**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*S.C. Chapman*

*Soloist: Dick Johnston*

### **CHILDREN’S TIME**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

2 Samuel 7:1-4, 8-11, 16

**7** After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, **2** he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.” **3** Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.” **4** But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

**8** “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. **9** I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. **10** And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they

can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

<sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me, your throne will be established forever."

John 1:1-8, 19-28

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" <sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup> "I baptize with<sup>Ⓜ</sup> water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**SERMON**

Awaiting God's Peace

Pastor Craig

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS, ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF  
ELDERS AND DEACONS**

**CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS**

**HYMN**

*Still, Still, Still*

124

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!  
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,  
warm and safe the child are holding.  
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep  
while angel hosts from heaven come winging,  
sweetest songs of joy are singing.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

**CALL FOR OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*In the Stillness of the Night*

Rob Peery

**\*DOXOLOGY**

606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN**

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

69

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Let Us Adore Him*

Rob Peery

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## **HYMN SINGER**

Dick Johnston

All taped Worship Services are available for replay on the

[Special Video Worship Page.](#)

**The Rose on the Baptismal Font Celebrates this Witness to the  
Resurrection in Jesus Christ:  
Brenda Hait – December 10**

**Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized:  
Donna Frisch, Marti Long**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Christmas Eve Services  
December 24**

**4:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.**

You can register your attendance for our Christmas Eve services by emailing Pastor Diane at [pastordiane@valleypres.net](mailto:pastordiane@valleypres.net), or on the church's website (on the home page, scroll down to "Christmas Eve Services").

**Advent Taize': Wednesdays in December**

Advent is a time that prepares us for Christmas. To walk the journey of Advent, we are offering Taize' worship services on Wednesdays in the month of December. Taize' is a beautiful worship service in candlelight with scripture, prayer and music. Join us on December 16 and 23. The service can be viewed on our church website by 5 p.m.:

<https://www.valleypresbyterian.net/special-video-worship.html>

**"Welcome Home for the Holidays"**

December 20: 1:00 p.m., or 5:00 p.m.

Please join us for a program of Classical, Midweek Favorites, and Holiday Music. This musical time together is sure to put you in a home, holiday, and joyful spirit! Please make reservations at [jamie@valleypres.net](mailto:jamie@valleypres.net)

**The Poinsettias Gracing our Sanctuary**

Poinsettias given by: see attached list below

Jeff & Peggy	Babcock	In memory of Ralph Hawthorne
Jeff & Peggy	Babcock	In memory of Genie Waterhouse Hawthorne
Lance & Gail	Barker	In memory of our Parents
Dick & Marilyn	Barney	
John & Barb	Bentley	In memory of our parents
Joan	Bolin	In memory of Mom & Dad
Don & Ann	Bont	In memory of Parents, Gerry & Cliff Bont
Mike & Kay	Brouwer	In memory of our Parents
Tommy & Lee Ann	Calhoun	In memory of Our Parents
Dick & Judy	Christensen	In memory of Grant Stitt
George & Karen	Curtis	In memory of our Parents
Roger Fisher		Church Staff
Ken & Sheila	Frahm	
Mary Lee	Haas	In memory of Kerm Haas
Liz	Haynes	In memory of my Parents
Jean	Hein	In memory of Marvin & Family
Sara	Hennigar	In memory of Bill Hennigar

John & Abby	Jackson	In memory of our Families
Kylene	Joplin	In memory of Jimmy Joplin
Donaldina	Joung	In memory of my Grandson Brandon
Marcia	Koshollek	In memory of our Parents
Linda	Kucera	In memory of Janet Larry
Vic	Kucera	In memory of Margaret Burreson
Royce & Joyce	Lambert	In memory of Russell Lambert
Bob & Mary	Lillie	In memory of our Parents
Tom & Lois	Macfarlane	In memory of loved ones
Mary	Macloskey	Doris Steffy & Betty Everett
Wanita	Marshall	
Nancy	Moses	My Husband Don
Jim & Candy	Nelson	Parents
Jim & Kathy	Rusk	Our Loved ones
Kristine	Sells	My dear husband Chuck Sells
Betty Singleton		
Ted & Gee-Gee	Smith	All 4 of our Parents
Carolyn	Stephens	Bob Stephens
Mike & Betty	Yoder	Our Sons Craig & Tony
Anonymous		
"A Friend"		Cynthia Krantz