



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16, 2018

9:30 A.M.

**To make Christ known through reconciliation while
communicating respect and love to all people.**

✠ All those who are able, please stand.

9:30 a.m.

December 16, 2018

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Christopher

Please print your name in the Friendship Register provided in your pew.

POURING OF THE WATER

L: Jesus is the Living Water.

P: Praise be to God.

PRELUDE

The First Noel - What Child is This?

Dr. Christine Vivona, harp

INTROIT

Christ, Be Our Light

arr. Joel Raney

Sanctuary Choir

Choir: Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
gathered today.

CALL TO WORSHIP Hope for Those Who Are Watching

Bill & Judy McKinley

Leader: *Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.*

**People: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat
them in our day!**

Leader: *Grant us vision to behold your glory.*

**People: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat
them in our day!**

Leader: *Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.*

**People: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord,
repeat them in our day!**

Leader: *Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.*

**People: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat
them in our day!**

Leader: *For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:*

All: **Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION SING

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your
Church gath - ered to - day.

ADVENT PRAYER

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - CHRISTMAS CANTATA

◆HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Adeste Fideles #41

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-5

HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* Carol (vs. 1-2) #38

ANTHEM *Christmas Prayer* Deborah Govenor

O, let us see the sparkle, and let us feel the glow.
Please help us find the Christmas star above the shopworn snow;
and let us hear the music again from up on high,
perhaps we'll catch the whisper of a holy baby's cry:

A cry of great compassion that one might sense and see,
to tell a great Creator cares for folk like you and me.
As love came down at Christmas one evening long ago,
may He live within our hearts, and may we feel the glow.

May He live within our hearts, and may we feel the glow.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:6-7

HYMN *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* W żłobie leży (vs. 1-2) #37

ANTHEM *Silent Noel* Ruth Elaine Schram
(with *Clair de Lune* and *Silent Night*)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, in peace;
sleep in peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ the Savior is born, He is born!
Christ the Savior is born.

Christ the Savior is born.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-14

◆**HYMN** *Angels, We Have Heard On High* Gloria (vs. 1-3) #23

ANTHEM *Christmas Hosanna* David Lantz III

Sing, sing glory to God, hosanna in the highest!
Sing, sing glory to God, and peace to all of good will.
For Jesus Christ is born in royal David's town.
Sing, sing glory to God as heav'n to earth comes down.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna! Hosanna!
O sing glory to God!

Sing, sing glory to God, hosanna in the highest!
Sing, sing glory to God, the Promised One has come.
No palace shelters Him, a stable hosts a King.
Sing, sing glory to God, the joyful message sing.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna! Hosanna!
O sing glory to God!

Sing, sing glory to God, hosanna in the highest!
Sing, sing glory to God, O come and worship Him.
When shepherds heard the news they ran to see God's Son.
Sing, sing glory to God, Emmanuel has come!

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna! Hosanna!
O sing glory to God!

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:15-16

HYMN *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Go Tell It (vs. 1-2) #29

ANTHEM *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* arr. Mark Hayes

Rise up, shepherd. Rise up, shepherd.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn';
Rise up, shepherd and follow!

It will lead to the place where the Savior's born;
Rise up, shepherd and follow!

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs;
Rise up, shepherd and follow!
Leave your ewes and leave your rams;
Rise up, shepherd and follow!

Follow, follow! Rise up, shepherd and follow!
Follow the star of Bethlehem;
Rise up, shepherd and follow!

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2, 6

✦ **HYMN** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* In Dulci Jubilo (vs. 1-2) #28

ANTHEM A Christmas Fanfare Benjamin Harlan
 Sanctuary Choir

Congregation when invited

Gloria, in excelsis deo! Gloria, in excelsis deo!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God in the highest! Christ is born on Christmas day!
Christ is born on Christmas Day!
Alleluia, Christ is born on Christmas Day!

Choir and **Congregation:**

**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 angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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.”**

Choir only:

Gloria, in excelsis deo! Gloria, in excelsis deo!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Christ is born on Christmas day!

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:68-70;74-75; 78

HYMN *The First Noel* The First Noel (vs. 1, 6) #56

ANTHEM *The Christmas Gift* Pepper Choplin
Ron Bell - soloist

We raise our songs for You, Lord to celebrate Your birth,
when You were sent with heaven's love as a present to the earth.

You celebrate My birthday with presents 'round your tree.
You have a gift for ev'ryone, what is your gift for Me?

Lord, what have we to offer to You who made all things?
You give to us our life and breath. What present could we bring?

You can give Me bread when I'm hungry, a coat when I am cold.
When I am sick, you can care for Me and soothe My suff'ring soul.

When do we see You hungry or shiv'ring in the cold?
When are You sick that we can come to soothe Your suff'ring soul?

When you offer bread to the hungry, a coat to one who's cold,
and when you care for one who's sick, you soothe My suff'ring soul.
So go to those who need you, be generous and free.
For when you give a gift to them, you give a Christmas gift to Me.

Let us go and offer freely, Lord, teach us as we do:
when we give a gift to a suff'ring one, we give a gift to You.

When you give a gift to a suff'ring one, you give a Christmas gift to
Me.

We bring a Christmas gift to You.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

Rev. Medina

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

OFFERTORY

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella
Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming
Dr. Christine Vivona, harp

✠ **DOXOLOGY**

Old One Hundredth #592

**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.**

✠ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

✠ **HYMN**

Joy to the World

Antioch #40

✠ **BENEDICTION**

✠ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow,
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

✠ **POSTLUDE**

Joy to the World

OUR WORSHIP NOW ENTERS THE WORLD

A Congregational Meeting is hereby called for after worship today for the purpose of 1) Nominating and electing a Deacon to fill an unexpired term on the Deacon board and 2) Nominating and electing 7 active members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee along with 2 active members to serve as alternate members to the PNC.

Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 19 at 5:00 p.m. Led by Rev. Medina
Advent meal of soup and bread at 5:45 p.m.
At 6:15 p.m., The Messiah - Classroom 5

Thank you to our volunteers!

Coffee Fellowship

Roxanne Blair,
Steve & Jessie Setterlund,
Nancy Tompkins

Information Center

Jim & Shelley Bellotty

Medical Team

Doug Clark

Visitor's Table

Rick & Pat Nau

Welcome Center

Carol Peeler, Roy Romstad

La Posada Service of Worship

Marti Long, Parker Long

Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized:

Martha Ashton, Tommy Calhoun, Sandy Vold

The Rose on the Baptismal Font Celebrates this Witness



to the Resurrection in Jesus Christ



Jean Godberson

December 6

Giving Envelopes: The Church Giving Envelopes for 2019 have arrived. Please come to the office and pick them up for 2019.

Office Closed on Fridays: This is a reminder that the Office is closed on Fridays. If you leave a telephone message for the staff, you will not receive a response until Monday morning. In the case of an emergency, please use the *Pastor On Call* instructions. Thank you.

Invitation Christmas Postcards: Want to invite someone to one of our Christmas Eve services? We are here to help. We have beautiful Christmas postcards with information about our Christmas Eve worship services. They are at the Welcome Centers by the main entrances. Pick up as many as you need to invite your friends and neighbors to church on Christmas Eve.

Mission Quilts will meet tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bring a snack when staying the entire time. Please call Patti Bright at 520-305-3275 if you have any questions.

Blood Pressure Screening: Today in the Sweet Family Room after the worship service.

December 30th is the fifth Sunday of the month, and you know what that means! Please gather up your loose change and toss it into the buckets during our noisy offering to help our mission programs. The recipient of this month's gifts will be the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Today that fund is still empty. Donating your loose change on Noisy Offering Sunday (December 30) will help the Pastors assist those in need in our community.

Staff Appreciation Gift: Over the years, the Valley Presbyterian Church members have given a special Christmas gift to staff members. Once again, we are providing green envelopes in the pews today for those who wish to express their additional appreciation for the church staff. Envelopes can be sent to Suzanne Mandeville at the church office. Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas!

Women's Ministries: Please stop by the Women's Ministry table after worship today to purchase your ticket (\$11) for our Christmas luncheon on December 18 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will be filling baskets for those in need and would appreciate cash donations to purchase items for the baskets.

From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation with Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. This class meets on Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Classroom 1. For more information, contact Grant Stitt at 396-3549.

The Longest Night: Please join us on Wednesday, December 19 at 12:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center for a beautiful Longest Night Service. This is a service of remembrance, healing and hope. A comforting lunch will follow.

Around the Table Celebration, 4 p.m. Christmas Eve: Join us for an informal worship service in the Fellowship Hall as we tell the Christmas story through word and song, and share a potluck meal together. Bring a favorite Christmas dish, appetizer, or dessert.

A Grief Recovery Workshop will begin on Monday, January 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for five weeks. The purpose of the workshop is to discover the stages of the grief process, find healthy ways to deal with the pain and loss and to begin the healing process. The Facilitator for the workshop is Lynne Szabo, M.A., M.F.C.C. Call the church office 520.625.5023 to reserve your spot.

Week #49 (thru 12/9/18)			
Church Operations Weekly Finances		Weekly Church Attendance	
Weekly Giving Income	\$12,303	2018 Attendance	410
Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,874	2017 Attendance	342
*YTD Giving Income	\$649,081	*YTD 2018 Attendance	15,645
*YTD Giving Budget	\$696,161	*YTD 2017 Attendance	17,980
*YTD: Year-to-Date			
<small>D. Brooks - VPC Treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959</small>			

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 19
at Noon in the Spiritual Life Center
A service of Remembrance, Healing and Hope
by Congregational Care

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 24

4:00 p.m. - Around the Table Celebration
Informal worship with potluck meal
and communion.

7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service
Celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

La Joya at La Posada

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Offering envelopes can be found in the pew racks or a check made out to Valley Presbyterian church with Christmas Joy Offering in the memo line.

 <p>Oasis of Grace</p>	
2800 S. Camino del Sol Green Valley, AZ 85622 Telephone: (520) 625-5023 Web: www.valleypresbyterian.net Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net	REV. MARK A. MEDINA, <i>Transitional Pastor</i> REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, <i>Pastor of Discipleship</i> REV. JOE HAWKINS, <i>Pastor Emeritus</i> JOEL PIERCE, <i>Director of Music</i> CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, <i>Parish Nurse</i>
We are a Stephen Ministry Church	