

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

**Visitors:** Consider yourself at home while you are here! Please pick up a Visitor's Information Packet while enjoying refreshments just for you at our Visitor's Table in Fellowship Hall after our worship service.

\*Welcome back, Les and Lanny! We are delighted to have them share their musical gifts with us once again. Following the initial postlude, Joel, Les, and Lanny will play additional music from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. We invite you to remain and listen.

**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.

**Adult Sunday School:** Adult Sunday School Class meets in Classroom 5 at 8:30 a.m. before worship. Each Sunday's discussion topic will be the day's sermon scriptures.

**From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation** with Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. This class **will not** meet Friday, December 28. For more information, contact Grant Stitt at 396-3549.

**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.

**THANK YOU!** On behalf of Youth on Their Own, I would like to thank our congregation for their generous support of the "Christmas Spread The Warmth Campaign" to give each student a plush throw and a Gift Certificate. Thank you for the needed food and cash donations to their Mini-Mall. Your TLC is greatly appreciated.

**New Email Address:** If you have an announcement/article/event for the Sunday bulletin, E-blast, Valley Voice, or church calendar, you no longer need to remember which person on staff does which publication. We have created a new email address, [notices@valleypres.net](mailto:notices@valleypres.net), that will get the information to all the right people. When using this email address, please be sure to let us know which publication(s) you want the information put into. This address is effective immediately and we ask that you begin using it instead of emailing individual staff members with these types of items.

### Thank you to our volunteers!

#### Coffee Fellowship

Roxanne Blair, Barbara Dittmer,  
Rick & Pat Nau

#### Medical Team

Marvin Clark

#### Visitor's Table

Patti Bright

#### Welcome Centers

Carol Peeler, Roy Romstad

#### Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized:

George Curtis

**Poinsettias given by:** see insert



The Rose on the Baptismal Font Celebrates this Witness  
to the Resurrection in Jesus Christ



Phyllis Dierken December 17

Joel Pierce and Pam Coggins will be playing various  
Christmas Carols a half hour before the  
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service.

### 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

**Mission Breakfast:** Pam and Dave L, our Missionaries to Iran, Pakistan, and Bangladesh will present their adventures on Saturday, January 19 at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 with a fabulous breakfast. Tickets are \$5 and will be on sale Sunday, January 6 and January 13 in Fellowship Hall after our worship service.

**Christianity & World Religions** begins Wednesday, January 9 at 11:00 a.m. in Classroom 5. Books will be available next Sunday.



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We are a Stephen Ministry Church



REV. MARK A. MEDINA, *Transitional Pastor*  
REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Pastor of Discipleship*

REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*  
JOEL PIERCE, *Director of Music*  
CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 23, 2018

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Inspired by Luke 1:26-38

Faithful God, you chose Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Sovereign and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may understand your ways, rejoice in your salvation, and embrace your will; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Pat Nau

#### PRELUDE

*Mary, Did You Know?*

arr. Jack

Schrader

Les Roberts\* - drums, Lanny Webb - bass

#### INTROIT

*Christ, Be Our Light*

arr. Joel Raney

Sanctuary Choir

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

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 Wounded

Audrey Wolter, Don Christensen

Leader: *Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.*

People: **Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

Leader: *For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:*

People: **Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

Leader: *For any bitterness that scratches our soul:*

People: **Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

Leader: *For relationships left in decay and neglect:*

People: **Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

Leader: *For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:*

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  
CHOIR

**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 darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered to-day.

OF ADVENT CANDLE  
AND CONGREGATION  
SING

Salvation is created. Alleluia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Please join the Choir in singing the Great Amen.*

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 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
Various

*Christmas Time Is Here*  
*Linus and Lucy*  
**OUR WORSHIP NOW ENTERS THE WORLD!**

*Worship Aids/Sermon Notes*

*Sermon: "The Joyous Announcement of a Precious Gift"*

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

ADVENT PRAYER

✦HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 2-3) Veni Emmanuel 9

INVITATION TO PRAISE AND ADORATION

O Shepherd of Israel, from whom comes forth one who shall feed Your flock, we gather as those who dwell in the folds of your embrace and care. Your love envelops us like swaddling cloths wrapped around a babe in a manger. Your countenance shines like a star which led the shepherds one night. We behold your radiance as we enter your sanctuary and praise your name for the Christ who brings us salvation. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF PRAISE

MUSICAL RESPONSE AND PRAISE *Remember Your Love* Taizé

Remember your love, and your faithfulness, O God.  
Remember your love, and have mercy on us, Lord.

(Sung twice)

SPECIAL MUSIC *We Three Kings* arr. Jack Schrader  
Les Roberts - drums, Lanny Webb - bass

ANTHEM *Advent Alleluia* Keith Christopher  
Sanctuary Choir

Salvation is created. Salvation is created.

O Lord, God, Lord God almighty.

We offer praise to Thee above;

O Lord, holy Lord. God.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence.

And with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly minded,

For with blessing in His hand,

Christ our God to earth descendeth,

Our full homage to demand.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

We offer praises to Thee above; O Lord.

TIME WITH YOUTH

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Ruling Elder Carol Peeler

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON "The Joyous Announcement of a Precious Gift" Rev. Medina

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

✦HYMN *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers* Llangloffan 15

COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

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

OFFERTORY *Gesù Bambino* Pietro Yon  
Katie Sayre - soprano; Jeff McCune - tenor

✦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 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Hymn To Joy 464

✦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.

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for

**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.

**VPC Financial/Attendance Update**

Week #50 (thru 12/16/18)			
Church Operations Weekly Finances		Weekly Church Attendance	
Weekly Giving Income	\$8,873	2018 Attendance	367
Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,874	2017 Attendance	346
*YTD Giving Income	\$661,668	*YTD 2018 Attendance	16,012
*YTD Giving Budget	\$716,951	*YTD 2017 Attendance	18,716
<small>*YTD: Year-to-Date</small>			
<small>D. Brooks - VPC Treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959</small>			

YTD attendance corrected for 2017.