

SECOND 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 9, 2018

WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH Rev. Medina
Please print your name in the Friendship Register provided in your pew.

MINUTE FOR THE FUTURE Nominating Committee

POURING OF THE WATER
L: Jesus is the Living Water. P: Praise be to God.

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Traditional Advent
Valley Ringers

INTROIT *Christ, Be Our Light* arr: Joel Raney
Sanctuary Choir

Choir: Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
gathered today.

RESPONSE READING Hope for Those Who are Weary
Leslie & Joe Bruce

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,
People: but the darkness has not overcome it.
Leader: During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.
People: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Leader: We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.
People: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Leader: We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.
People: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Leader: For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:
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.

Thank you to our volunteers!

Coffee Fellowship

Chris & Nicole Raymond
Dave & Judy Roberts

Information Center

Kay & Mike Brouwer

Medical Team

Marvin Clark

Visitor's Table

Dave & Cheryl Stepp

Welcome Centers

Carol Peeler, Roy Romstad

Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized:

Charles "Chuck" Morris, Ralph Tanner, Jeanne Truitt

Friendship Kettle Dinner: Sunday, December 16 at 5 p.m. Join us for a pork tenderloin dinner, then at 6 p.m. a program by the Green Valley Saxophone Quartet. Tickets (\$13) will be available in Fellowship Hall today.

Christmas Poinsettias: Please sign up at the Information Table for Christmas poinsettias that beautify our Sanctuary and cheer up our shut-ins. Poinsettia plants are \$10 each and must be paid when you sign up. If you would like to announce your plant donation as a memorial, please be sure to let us know when you sign up.

Looking for Christmas Carolers: On Saturday, December 15, the Fellowship Committee, along with the Valley Galley crew, have planned a Caroling event at three locations in the Green Valley Community, and we want to invite you to come along. The more voices, the merrier. To help us plan, please sign up at the "Christmas Caroling" table in Fellowship Hall today.

Campus Ministry: The Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board wishes to thank VPC for the great support of our Gaslight Fund Raiser.

Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Advent meal of soup and bread at 5:45 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m., inside VPC's Music Ministry with Joel Pierce in the Spiritual Life Center.



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. 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*

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.

Rev. Medina: Office hours at Posada Java have been concluded. I wish to thank all of you who participated in meeting with me for coffee and conversation.

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.

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 envelopes in the pews today and December 16 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!

Our Stephen Ministry Christmas Program this year will feature former Stephen Leader, Marti Long, leading the program with a special surprise topic! All the congregation is invited to attend and enjoy this presentation at 9:00 a.m. on December 14 in the Spiritual Life Center.

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 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.

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.

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

ADVENT PRAYER

HYMN *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (vs. 1) 2

INVITATION TO CONFESSION Rev. Medina

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of peace, who sent light into the world in the coming of Jesus Christ: We confess that we have not followed the light given to us. We have not searched for signs of your love, or trusted the goodness of your good news. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ the Lord. (silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (vs. 2) 2

ANTHEM *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* John Ness Beck
Sanctuary Choir; Dave Tompkins - soloist

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs and promise are.
Trav'lers, o'er yon mountain height, see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray any joy or hope foretell?
Trav'lers, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Trav'lers, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Trav'lers, ages are its own; see! It bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Trav'lers, darkness takes its flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease; hie thee to thy quiet home.
Trav'lers, lo! The Prince of Peace. Lo! The Son of God is come!

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

YOUTH CHAT (September-May)

Following the message, grades 1-6 will go to Classroom 3 for Sunday School.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 2:5-11

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Jesus' Path to Bethlehem Rev. Christopher

✠ **HYMN** *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* 2088

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

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

OFFERTORY *Prince of Peace* Handel/Ingram
Valley Ringers

✠ **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** *Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending* (vs. 1 & 3) 6

✠ **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** *Angels, We Have Heard On High* arr. Lani Smith
(For piano and organ)

OUR WORSHIP NOW ENTERS THE WORLD!

A Congregational Meeting is hereby called for after worship on Sunday, December 16 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.

Worship Aids/Sermon Notes

Sermon: Jesus' Path to Bethlehem
Scripture Readings

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 1:1-3, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made...

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

VPC Financial/Attendance Update

Week #48 (thru 12/2/18)			
Church Operations Weekly Finances		Weekly Church Attendance	
Weekly Giving Income	\$24,050	2018 Attendance	362
Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,874	2017 Attendance	342
*YTD Giving Income	\$636,342	*YTD 2018 Attendance	15,235
*YTD Giving Budget	\$675,370	*YTD 2017 Attendance	17,574

*YTD: Year-to-Date

D. Brooks - VPC Treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959