



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

PRELUDE *Angels We Have Heard On High*
Sophia St. John, Pianist

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Pastor Craig

PASSING THE PEACE

RINGING THE BOWL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Diane

L: This morning we light the first, second and third candles of the Advent Wreath. Each light has meaning. The first candle is lit in HOPE; the second candle is lit for PEACE; the third candle is lit for JOY.

P: You will go out in JOY and be led forth in PEACE; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)

L: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and abide with us

in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your JOY helping us shine light in the world. We pray through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete.
Amen

✠ **OPENING HYMN**

The First Nowell

147

CALL TO PRAYER

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, rejoicing with prayer, joy and singing.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, You are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not lived with expectation of your kingdom, we have lived casual lives, ignoring promised judgment. We have accepted lies as truth, exploited neighbors, abused the earth. Refusing your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your ways, to seek that which will endure when Christ comes to judge the world anew.

POURING OUT THE WATERS / ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Strengthen us O God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring good news to the poor, lifting blind eyes to sight, loosing the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we feast with all your saints in Joy. Brothers and Sisters, believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

GLORIA PATRI

581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, Amen.

ANTHEM *Christmas... In About Three Minutes* Arr. M. Weston

Here we come a-caroling! Over the river and through the woods.
Deck the hall with boughs of holly.
Up on the housetop reindeer pause, out jumps good old Santa
Claus;
Down through the chimney with lots of toys,
all for the little ones, Christmas joy.
Joy to the world. On Christmas night all people sing.
The first noel the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they..
I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will
to all.
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day, on Christmas
Day.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your
branches.
The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.
Ring, Christmas bells, ding dong ding dong,
Ring, Christmas bells, ring, loud and long.
Hasten now ye shepherds. Masters in this hall, come.
O come, all ye faithful, Bring a torch Jeannette, Isabella!
joyful and triumphant. Good people all rejoice and sing.

Come ye, O come ye. We wish you a merry Christmas,
and a happy New Year!

O come, little children, O come one and all to Toyland.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New,

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,

and a happy New Year!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

The Gospel of Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

SERMON “He Preached Good News To The People”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Apostles’ Creed* 35
I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

⌄ **HYMN** *Of the Father's Love Begotten* 108

OFFERTORY *O Little Town of Bethlehem* with *Reverie* by Debussy
L.H Redner/Arr. L McKechnie

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

⌄ **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.

⌄ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

⌄ **HYMN** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* 121

⌄ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

⌄ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

⌄ **POSTLUDE** *Joy to the World! Psalm 19* by Marcello
G.F. Handel/Arr. L McKechnie

⌄ **All those who are able, please stand**

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All Worship Services are available for replay on our website:

www.valleypres.net

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 pick up a Visitor’s Information Packet while enjoying refreshments at our Visitor’s Table in Fellowship Hall. If you would like more information about our church, visit us at valleypres.net where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter.

We are glad you have joined us today.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
November-2021		Through Week #49 (12/05/21)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 58,229	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	195
Monthly Giving Budget	\$ 63,721	* YTD 2021 Attendance Sanctuary	7,100
*YTD Giving Support	\$ 619,350	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	210
*YTD Giving Budget	\$ 577,873	** YTD 2021 Viewing On-Line	7,375
		* YTD 2021 Attendance / On-Line	14,475
		* YTD 2020 Attendance Sanctuary	5,870
* YTD = Year to Date ** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service			
D. Brooks - VPC treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959 2021/22 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member			

Sanctuary Flowers provided by: Jean Hein, in appreciation of our music groups.

Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized or in rehabilitation: Larry Briggs, Pat Johnston

ADVENT TAIZE
THURSDAYS IN DECEMBER
5:00 P.M. IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER

Taize is a beautiful, half-hour meditative service of song and candlelight, scripture and prayer. If you have not been to a Taize worship service, we invite you to come and have your soul filled with peace and joy. For Advent, we focus on the deliverance

stories in the Book of Daniel. Perhaps you learned about them in Children's Sunday School: Daniel in the lions den; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace. Deliverance comes as well in the form of an angel and promises of a coming Messiah.

Come and worship the One who gives these promises of deliverance for us today.



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY & POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We are taking orders to reserve a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays in 2022, and to order your Christmas Poinsettias, see Cindy or Linda in the Church office.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK:

Monday:

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Committee
1:00 p.m. Advent in Plain Sight

Tuesday:

8:00 a.m. Mission Committee Monthly Meeting
9:00 a.m. Cardio Drumming
9:30 a.m. Prayer Ministry
1:00 p.m. Grief Recovery
2:00 p.m. Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday:

9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Chair Exercise with Mia Lee Cooper
2:00 p.m. Bell Rehearsal

3:15 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday:

8:30 a.m. Session Meeting

10:00 a.m. Wait Upon the Lord

5:00 p.m. Advent Taizé

Friday:

1:00 p.m. Grief Recovery

4:00 p.m. Music in the Valley Dress Rehearsal

Saturday:

3:00 p.m. Music in the Valley Concert

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN

Saturday, December 18th, at 3:00 p.m.

Music in the Valley Chancel Choir Concert Singing in the Holiday Season.

This is a free Concert

Tuesday, December 21st, at 4:00 p.m.

Longest Night Service

Friday, December 24th, at 4:00 p.m.

Lessons & Carols



Friday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

December 25th, Offices Closed





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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*