



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

PRELUDE

Moonlight Sonata

Beethoven

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Pastor Diane

RINGING THE BOWL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE.

People: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Leader: Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give the courage to hope. Give grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.

✦ OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to the; here, Lord abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

CALL TO PRAYER

Friends, we are in the presence of the ineffable and holy God. Let us humbly confess our neediness and ask for grace and mercy. Let us pray.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you, O God, that we have fallen asleep. We often go through the motions and live our daily lives without much thought outside of ourselves. Forgive us for our shortsightedness. Forgive us for not being awake to the wonders and signs that you are doing something new in our world and in our lives. Help us to seek you in the face of others. Call us into your ways of love and justice, so that we might be fully awake, watching and waiting for your return in our world and in our lives in a new way. (Silent prayer) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. As we wait for Christmas, we know that Christ has already come into our world and lives, has already been born in us. Friends, 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

My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)

R. Cooney / Arr. M. Hayes

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

Matthew 24:30-35

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

SERMON

GOD’S GATE

✠ **HYMN**

I Will Enter His Gates

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus with

Two Part Invention #8 in F by Bach

Arr. L. McKechnie

✠ **DOXOLOGY**

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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 Lord, How Shall I Meet You

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O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
When your renewed creation your glory shall display.

✦ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

✦ **ADVENT CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

✦ **POSTLUDE**

Symphony No. 7 II

L. Beethoven;

Transcribed for Organ by W. Moulton

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

All Worship Services are available for replay on our website:

www.valleypres.net

Hymn Soloist for today's service: *Linda Freeman*

We look forward to seeing you in our Sanctuary next Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Flowers provided by: Rick & Pat Nau in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized or in rehabilitation:

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.



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. Please contact the church office to place your order.

ADVENT, BEGINS NOVEMBER 28, 2021.

The Faith Formation Committee has several ways to help you prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

Advent in Plain Sight

Mondays, Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 & 19
1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5 or via Zoom.

Wait Upon the Lord

Thursdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23
10:00 a.m. in Classroom 3.

In addition, you are invited to the meditative **TAIZÉ WORSHIP SERVICES** each Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are several volunteer opportunities that you may be interested in participating in:

Mission Committee—there is still a need for volunteers to serve on several committees. See Doug Clark if interested.

Prayer Shawls—knit or crochet a prayer shawl and have it blessed by the pastor. These will then be delivered to the homebound or ill.

Usher/Greeter/Welcome Desk —we would like to have volunteers on Sunday mornings to greet our members as they arrive. If interested, contact the people below:

Ushers/Greeters—Mike Yoder, Y6899@icloud.com / 520-307-4915.

Welcome Desk—Patti Bright, pattibright1@gmail.com / 405-550-8014.

Check-in— if you can type on your phone or a tablet, you would be great at checking people in on Sunday mornings. See Linda Hester in the Church office if interested.



**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. 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*