

Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Coming together
to know Christ and to make him known



Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2019

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Angel Song”

Music and Lyrics: Patricia Mock, Jon Paige, Arranged by: Joseph M. Martin
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Chancel Choir

*WELCOME

Doug Ashley

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Brian, Kerri, Ainsley, Marshall and Hayes Daugbjerg

Leaders: Prepare the way of the Lord.
We light this candle in peace,
The peace of that Jesus, our Savior, gives to the world.

People: Prepare the way of the Man of Peace!

*Joy to the World (Peace)

Peace in the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room.
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Original Music and Lyrics: George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts,
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*O Come, All Ye Faithful

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels; *[Refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *[Refrain]*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *[Refrain]*

Music and Lyrics: C. Frederick Oakeley
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Welcome! Whether you are young or old; first time in a church or a long-time worshipper, full of questions and doubt or confidence and joy – or places in between all that - we are glad you are here! Our desire is that no matter where in life you are, you feel welcome in this place. So, if there is any way we can be of help to you please see one of our ushers and we will do the best we can to make you feel at home.

Hearing devices are available in the foyer.

Please sign the friendship pads located at the end of each pew.

Advent Continues. As we continue our Advent journey we are reminded that the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (*John 1:14*). This assures us that God not only cares about human history, but has entered it. In fact, our entire history may be thought of as “redemptive history” for all along God has been actively bringing about the redemption, or restoration, of his creation. He has been humanity’s past, is active in our present and, as Advent underscores, will be active in our future. For the time is coming when all of God’s promises will be fulfilled: the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. Are you prepared for this great future day?

Why sing of God's glory

together? It is far too easy to think of public worship as something nice, but unnecessary; or to make it a spectacle for consumer consumption. Psalm 66 is a wonderful corrective to these common errors. It invites us as God's covenant people to "make God's praise glorious" or give God "glorious praise". What does that mean? "'Glory' has connotations of weightiness, dignity, magnificence, and beauty. Glorious worship is exuberant, never halfhearted. It is attractive, not off-putting. It is awesome, never sentimental. It is brilliant, not careless. It points to God, not to the speakers. It fits its great object – it seeks to be as glorious as the one it praises." (from *The Songs of Jesus by Tim & Kathy Keller*) May glorious praise be a fitting description of our corporate worship each Sunday morning!

*Midnight Clear (Love Song)

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God evermore.
Good news, great joy for all.
Melody breaks through the silence.
Christ the Savior is born;
Jesus, the love song of God.

It came upon the midnight clear;
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.
Peace on the earth! Good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heavenly music floats
Through all the weary world.
And man at war with man hears not
The love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease the strife.
And hear the angels sing. [Refrain]

Music and Lyrics: Richard Willis, Ed Cash et al.

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (CAROL) By Richard Willis (1850) Public Domain, "Midnight Clear" © 2015 Capitol CMG Paragon Publishing

MORNING PRAYER

The First Noel

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. [Refrain]

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Music and Lyrics: Anonymous

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CHILDREN'S LESSON

Jenny Hubbard

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Word of God, Speak

I'm finding myself at a loss for words. And the funny thing is it's okay.
The last thing I need is to be heard. But to hear what You would say.

Word of God speak! Would You pour down like rain,
Washing my eyes to see Your majesty?
To be still and know that You're in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness.

Word of God, speak.

Music and Lyrics: Bart Millard, Pete Kipley
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SERMON LESSON

Luke 2:11-14 & John 14:27

SERMON

“The Man of Peace”

THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (In Dulci Jubilo)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened the heavenly door, and man is blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Music: In Dulci Jubilo, Lyrics: John Mason Neale
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*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand as able*

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Shelley Kral

Pam D'Andre

Praise Team

The impact of sermons. The very act of listening to a sermon shapes us. In a postmodern American society that prizes radical equality (everyone's the same), the relativity of truth (everyone's beliefs are equally valid), and suspicion of power (I can't trust people in authority), we need to realize just how subversive and shaping it is for us to sit and listen to a sermon. When we sit, our posture is saying, "I'm submitting myself to the authority of the Bible." When we listen to preaching with teachable hearts, we are saying, "I'm looking to something outside myself to tell me what is true and inform my life." The very act of listening to a sermon makes us a counter-cultural people who begin to doubt some of the above-mentioned assumptions about the world. We become a people who look to God—not ourselves—to inform us, grow us, lead us, and equip us. Now we can see that it's not only the content but the very action of listening to a sermon that shapes us into who God wants us to be.