



Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Coming together to know Christ and to make him known.

Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is Born, Sing Glory to God!

Words and Music - Lloyd Larson / 2007 Lorenz Publishing Company

WELCOME & *INVOCATION

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

People: **In him was life,
and the life was the light of men.**

Pastor: The Word took on flesh;
he became King in order to be our hope!

People: The Word is our Hope and we wait expectantly for him
to finish bringing his goodness to bear;
to liberate humanity and the cosmos from evil.
We are certain he will accomplish it for he who promised is faithful.

All: **Glory to the newborn King!**

Doug Ashley

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.

In the name of our grace-filled God we welcome you this morning.

Hearing devices are available in the foyer...ask an usher.

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?

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

* *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

[Refrain] Come and worship! Come and worship!
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story. Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *[Refrain]*

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: *[Refrain]*

Sages, leave your contemplation. Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star. *[Refrain]*

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One. *[Refrain]*

Words and Music - Henry Thomas Smart, James Montgomery
Words and Music: Public Domain

* *The First Noel*

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.

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.

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.

Words: Anonymous - Music: Traditional English Carol
Words and Music: Public Domain

* **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Words and Music: Public Domain

CHILDREN'S LESSON

Jenny Hubbard

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

* *Speak O Lord*

Speak O Lord and renew our minds, help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak O Lord till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Music and Lyrics: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
© 1992 Heritage Music Press, A Division of The Lorenz Corporation

SERMON LESSON

John 1:9-13

Shelley Kral

SERMON

“Jesus Before Belief”

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

For Unto Us a Child is Born

Arranged by Tom Fettke
© 1998 Lillenas Publishing

* THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all Ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC

* Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Mendelssohn)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Words and Music: Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Words and Music: Public Domain

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

**Please stand as able*

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The Lord at Work. During this part of our service we are reminded that while on Sundays we exist as 'the church gathered', the rest of the week we exist as 'the church scattered'. God is alive and at work through each of us as we journey with God in our daily lives. By highlighting important events in the life of our faith family, we seek to connect all that goes on throughout the week to the Living God working in and through all who are part of our worshipping community.

Sunday, December 16, 2018 Announcements & Information

CARDS & CAROLS TODAY AT 10:45 AM: Following worship, all are welcome to join Sunday School classes of all ages to travel to area Assisted Living facilities to share Christmas love. We will sing and share cards created by the youth and children.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

4:30 p.m. Family friendly Candles & Carols

6:30 p.m. Communion, Candles & Carols

(Nursery provided for both services.)

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Our 2018 Advent devotional booklets are available to pick up in the church foyer or in Trinity Hall. We have a few left. Also, you can click on the tab "Learn/Resources" on our website to follow along each day or the slider on the homepage.

NEW TO LONGVIEW EPC? Go to longviewepc.org for most info.

Prayer Ministry: Confidential prayer requests may be made by emailing prayerteam@epclongview.org or by using the cards located in the fellowship pads in your pew. Monthly prayer calendars are located in the foyer.

Tithes and Offerings: Boxes at each entrance. For credit/debit cards and electronically via the website—Serve/Giving.

Sermons and bulletins: Available on the website. You can listen to today's sermon following the service.

Parents and kids: Don't forget the special activity bags in the foyer just for you!

Blankets are available on the table by the sanctuary entrance if you or your little ones get cold during the service.

Guest WiFi: EPCGuest Password: Guestttt

THIS WEEK:

- *Today:* Cards & Carols at 10:45 a.m.
- *Wednesday:* Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.
- *Thursday:* Praise Team at 6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 23 at 9:30 a.m. — Worship Service, no Sunday School
- December 24 at 4:30 p.m. — Family Service
- December 24 at 6:30 p.m. — Candlelight Communion Service
- December 30 at 9:30 a.m. — Worship Service, no Sunday School
- January 6 at 9:30 a.m. — Worship Service, no Sunday School
- January 13 at 9:30 a.m. — Communion followed by Potluck Lunch

NURSERY :

Dec. 16: Infants: volunteers needed

Toddlers: Carrie Salmon & Madalynn Maddox

Dec. 23: Infants: volunteers needed

Toddlers: Leslie Carlile & Jim Brun

USHERS & GREETERS:

Morning openers: Bob & Barbara Linthicum

Today's Head Usher: Rick Poland

Dec. 16: Buck Otis, Keith Moyes &

Larry Northcutt

December 23: Head Usher: Rick Poland

Bill Bagley, Bill Burlingame & the Daugbjerg

Family

SAFETY TEAM:

Dec 16: Buck Otis &

Keith Moyes

Dec. 23: Buck Birdsong &

Brian Daugbjerg

Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Worship 9:30 • Sunday Classes 10:45

RULING ELDERS

Gena Bunn '18

Ginia Northcutt '18

Kathie Ramey '18

Michael McMahon '19

Matt Yost '19

Jim Brun '20

Kerri Daugbjerg '20

Eric Skoog '20

STAFF

Rev. Doug Ashley — Pastor / dashley@epclongview.org

Rev. Shelley Kral — Associate Pastor / skral@epclongview.org

Jason Hubbard — Director of Youth Ministry / jhubbard@epclongview.org

Suzi White — Administrator / swhite@epclongview.org

David Luna — Interim Music Director / dluna@epclongview.org

Carrie Northcutt — Interim Children's Dir. / childrensministry@epclongview.org

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