



Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Coming together to know Christ and to make him known.

Second Sunday of Advent December 9, 2018

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

A New Light is Dawning

Texts: John Parker Music: Larry Shackley / © 2008 Lorenz Publishing

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 he became King because he is love!

People: We trust that at the center of the universe is the Triune One
who overflows with love for this world.
The Word made us and remakes us
to receive and express that love.

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

Shelley Kral

Welcome! "There is a Grace that embraces you before you prove anything, and after you've done everything wrong, and says you can come with nothing. And he will love you through everything."
-Ann Voskamp

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.

What is Advent? Advent, which includes the four Sundays before Christmas as well as Christmas itself, is a period of preparation for the coming of Christ. Advent, which literally means "coming", is a time for anticipation, action, and reflection. During this season we celebrate that Christ has come into our world! That Christ is coming into lives today! That Christ will come again in fulfillment of God's promise of a new world of peace and love! So as we travel this busy Christmas season Advent invites us to take time and ask ourselves, "How are we, this very week, preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ?"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

* *Angels We have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains;
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria! In excelsis Deo!
Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Texts and Music: Traditional 18th Cent. French
Words: Public Domain / Music: Public Domain

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!” The tune to this popular Advent hymn dates back to at least 1400. The lyrics, written by Henrich Seuse (1295-1366) in 1328, were originally a mash up of Latin and German titled “In Dulci Jubilo.” Seuse states he was instructed in a vision to compose a song about baby Jesus and, fortunately for the Church, this is what he created! Translated into English by John Neale in 1853 may the last lines ring in your ears throughout the Christmas season and beyond. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* *Good Christian Friends Rejoice (In Dulci Jubilo)*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: 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: 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: 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!

John Mason Neale
Words: Public Domain / Music: Public Domain

* **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

What Child is This (Greensleeves)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh; Come peasant king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Music: Traditional English Melody Texts: William Chatterton Dix
Words: Public Domain / Music: Public Domain

CHILDREN'S LESSON

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)

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SERMON LESSON

John 1:6-8

Doug Ashley

SERMON

“Jesus Before Christianity”

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Behold, A Tiny Baby (with O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

Words and Music by Mary Lynn Lightfoot (Quoting VENI EMMANUEL - 13th-Century Plainsong)

THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC

* Go Tell it on the Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain! Over the hills, and ev'rywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born.
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

John W. Work Jr. / © Words: Public Domain / Music: Public Domain

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand as able*

Lyrics used by permission. CCLI License # 11081661

Tithes and Offerings at Longview EPC.

Jesus calls us to give our 'first fruits' (the best and first of our resources - be they financial, intellectual, physical or relational) to God for his glory and the furthering of his kingdom. In so doing we live the gospel of Jesus Christ by enacting our conviction that everything we have is a gift from God (1 Chronicles 29:14) and that he will take care of all our needs (Deuteronomy 14:23). Regarding financial giving, we practice in congruence with scriptures such as 2 Kings 12:9 and Matthew 12:41 where tithes and offerings were collected in boxes as people came and went from the temple. Longview EPC collects tithes and offerings in the wooden boxes found at all the entrances to the church sanctuary. Not taking a monetary offering during the worship service is in hopes of enabling visitors exploring the Christian faith to be present at worship without feeling obligated to contribute monetarily. Also, it reminds believers that giving is an extension of worship that may occur any day of the week and through a variety of means. Towards this end, electronic giving is available at <http://www.epclongview.org/serve/giving>.

Sunday, December 9, 2018 Announcements & Information

CONGRATULATIONS on the safe arrival of Finn Oliver Pyle born November 27th to Bryan and Katie Pyle. Proud grandparents are Larry and Deborah Pyle.

LUNCH BUNCH DECEMBER 12 at 11:30 AM: Christmas Carols Sing along—Come join the fun! Lunch main dish provided. Bring sides or desserts if able. All are welcome.

CARDS & CAROLS DECEMBER 16 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

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.

THIS WEEK:

- *Today:* Sunday Classes at 10:45 a.m.
Youth Christmas Party at 5:00 p.m.
- *Wednesday:* Lunch Bunch at 11:30 a.m.
Kidmin: Digin! at 5:15 p.m. (Last one until Jan.)
Youth Bible Studies (last week until January—depending on your group)
Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.
- *Thursday:* Praise Team at 6:00 p.m.

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. Text 903-484-1002 for credit/debit cards and electronically via the website—Serve/Giving.

Sunday classes: Children meet in room 105 in Trinity Hall. Adults, three class options.

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.

New Guest WiFi: EPCGuest Password: Guestttt

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 12—Lunch Bunch

December 16—Cards & Carols

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.—First Sunday Communion followed by Potluck Lunch

NURSERY :

Dec. 9: Infants: Nancy Hale & Kathie Ramey

Toddlers: Jim Brun & Suzi White

Dec. 16: Infants: volunteers needed

Toddlers: Kerri Daugbjerg & Carrie Salmon

USHERS & GREETERS:

Morning openers: Bob & Barbara Linthicum

Today’s Head Usher: Rick Poland

Dec. 9: Bill Bankston, Buck Birdsong:

Cody Parks & Todd Parks

Dec. 16: Head Usher Buck Birdsong,

Buck Otis, Keith Moyes & Larry Northcutt

SAFETY TEAM:

Dec 9: Bill Bankston &

Todd Parks

Dec. 16: Buck Otis &

Keith Moyes

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

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