



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT – DECEMBER 10, 2017

10:30 A.M.

*Please worship silently through the lighting of the Advent Candle.*

**Bold text** is read or sung by the congregation.

*\*Please stand if able.*

*PVPC welcomes children and encourages them to participate in our entire worship service. Pick up a children's worship tote bag at the sanctuary door.*

*The origin of bells in Christian worship can be traced to the ram's horns and silver trumpets used in the Old Testament to announce the beginning of a feast. In churches which are fortunate enough to have them, bells are rung just before the liturgy to call the people together.*

*An "Introit" is the name given to a piece of music which is sung at the beginning of the service, a tradition which began in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.*

*This introit is based on scripture from the Old Testament book of Habakkuk 2:20, and was written by Dr. George F. Root, author of more than 130 hymns.*

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

There is a story that says on the first Christmas the stars came down out of the skies and rested on the branches of a fir tree. Some of the first Christmas trees were lit with actual candles—only on Christmas Eve, and only with people to watch carefully!

This is the day we turn on the lights of our Christmas tree. Lights can be different colors and blink; they can be large or very small. Our lights are clear and bright! We place them on the tree's branches to brighten the inside of our church. They become visible reminders that *we* must shine out with love and caring, as God has done in Jesus Christ. How are you "shining" so far this Advent season?

### THE RINGING OF THE BELL

#### INTROIT (ALL)

The Lord is in his ho-ly tem-ple, the Lord is in his ho-ly

tem-ple; let all the earth keep sil-ence, let all the earth keep

silence be-fore him, keep silence, keep silence be-fore him.

# PREPARING OUR HEARTS

*The Advent wreath is perhaps the most common Advent symbol, and is also one of the most popular traditions in private homes. Each part of the Advent wreath symbolizes our spiritual preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ, on Christmas day. The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes eternal life; the purple candles symbolize our repentance and waiting; the pink Advent candle symbolizes our joy that Christmas is coming soon. The white "Christ" candle, lit on Christmas Eve, symbolizes the coming of Jesus as "The Light of the World."*

*This hymn has traditionally been associated with the Advent season, as we are waiting for the "King of Glory" who is the "Savior of the world." The gates are not literally openings to a walled city, but a metaphor for the "portals of [our] heart." Our hearts become a "temple set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ."*

*In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.*

*We express gratitude that through God's grace and Christ's giving of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.*

*We sing in thanksgiving for the gifts of forgiveness and new life.*

*The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. Having received Christ's peace, we pass it on.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lucy and Mike Yelton

Today we light the second Advent candle, the Bethlehem candle. This candle is offered in honor of the birthplace of Jesus as well as of the many places where Christ is born in the hearts of believers.

While Bethlehem was so busy with commerce that it had only a stable to offer Jesus, let our "Bethlehems" be places of warmth and welcome. In honor of Bethlehem we light this candle. (*Light Candle*) Let us pray together using the prayer in our bulletin ...

**Dear God, who comes to us through Jesus at Bethlehem, enable us to open our hearts so that we might have Christ in us. We give you thanks for the places where we meet the Christ. Amen.**

## \*OPENING HYMN NO. 8

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Ashia Stoess

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

**Salvation is near. Let us confess our sins:**

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess this morning that we do not fully believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We too often do not see neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that you will gather us to you and give us peace. In Christ's name, hear our silent prayers of return ... (*a time of silence for personal confession*)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.

**Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE, HYMN NO. 1 (First Stanza)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

*We invite children to come to the front at this time.*

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Shawn Harmon

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Chancel Choir

“Come, Shepherds, Rise!”

KEITH CHRISTOPHER

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-23

(Page 1, NT, Pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

JESUS: EMMANUEL

Reverend Joel Weible

*The original text for this hymn was inspired by Matthew 21:1-9. Like so many of the psalms that use the first-person pronoun (“I”), this text moves from the personal welcome of the Savior (first stanza), to a confession of the reason for Christ’s incarnation (second stanza), to the church’s expectation of Christ’s return (third stanza).*

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*PROCLAMATION HYMN NO. 11

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In a broken and fearful world, God’s Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.

In gratitude to God and empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and faithful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and earth, saying: “Come Lord Jesus!”

*In 1983 the two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited. The “Brief Statement of Faith” was commissioned and accepted for inclusion in the “Book of Confessions.” It celebrates the rediscovery that for all our diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.*

TIME OF GIVING THANKS

CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 debts,  
As we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
And the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

*We bring to God our joys and concerns, praying for the world, the church and those close to us.*

A preview from tonight's 6 p.m. gathering with The Men's Quartet. This tune speaks of those so excited about the birth of Jesus they don't know whether to "whisper" or "shout it out!"

Doxology literally means "words of glory." Doxologies have long been used by Jews and Christians to praise God. Here we honor and thank God "from whom all blessings flow."

This song is a versification of Isaiah 40:1-5, the passage that opens the final large group of prophecies in Isaiah 40-66. Many of these prophecies express consolation and hope that Judah's exile in Babylon is almost over. That is certainly the tone of 40:1-5...words of comfort forecasting a new reign but also words that call for proper preparation...that is, repentance.

This postlude is based on the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. It calls the followers of Christ to be roused and alert for His Second Coming.

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY "Whisper! Whisper!"

JAY ALTHOUSE

The Men's Quartet: James Bates, Bob Borders, Matt Killion, Richard Ray

#### \*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise \*Him, all crea - tures  
here be - low; Praise \*Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;  
Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### \*CLOSING HYMN NO. 3

"Comfort, Comfort You My People"

PSALM 42

#### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Reverend Joel Weible

#### THE RINGING OF THE BELL

#### POSTLUDE "Awake! Sleepers, Awake!"

DAVID CHERWIEN

**PLEASE NOTE:** Food and drinks are not allowed in the Sanctuary

#### *IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...*

All elements of recent services may be heard on our website; transcripts, videos, and audio podcasts can also be found:

[PeweeValleyPresbyterian.org](http://PeweeValleyPresbyterian.org)

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