



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT – DECEMBER 9, 2018

10:30 A.M.

*Please worship silently through  
the ringing of the bell.*

**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 that are  
fortunate enough to have them,  
bells are rung just before the  
liturgy to call the people  
together.*

*Today, we welcome Jay Willetts  
as a new member of PVPC by  
Affirmation of Faith.*

*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

This Advent we are pondering more deeply what "**Incarnation**" must mean for us today. We will search our Gospels to consider how they write about "God *in* Us," and we'll further contemplate how we understand this "incarnation." This morning we consider the **Gospel of Matthew**:

As you wait for the Ringing of the Bell, reflect on your understanding of what it can mean to incarnate God as "Parents of the Christ." How might we, like Mary, serve Love in spite of our fear and uncertainty and in spite of what others may think of us? How might we, like Joseph, trust in God and remain faithful and protective of God-with-Us?

### THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

#### INTROIT (ALL)

The Lord is in his holy tem - ple, the Lord is in his holy  
tem-ple; let all the earth keep si-lence, let all the earth keep  
silence be-fore him, keep silence, keep silence be-fore him.

# PREPARING OUR HEARTS

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Willis Family

Today we light the second of five candles in our Advent wreath. Each candle this year represents a different understandings of Incarnation:

As Christians, we are all called like Joseph and Mary to be “parents” of the Christ, to give birth to the Good News of God. And then to help this Good News grow strong. As we light our second candle let us consider how we, too, incarnate God by giving life to Love, itself.

**Dear God of all parents and all children, help us to be like Mary and Joseph, to incarnate your Love and give birth to Lives that are not afraid to *be* the Good News that comes from you. Amen.**

## \*OPENING HYMN NO. 8

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Emma MacNiven

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.**

*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.*

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Kylie Summer Phelps  
Infant daughter of Candler and Shawn Phelps  
Baptismal Hymn No. 24 "Away in a Manger" (stanzas 1 and 3)

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

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES  
All children will come forward for the Baptism

MUSICAL OFFERING The Chancel Choir  
"The Work of Christmas" HOWARD THURMAN

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-23 (Page 1, NT, Pew Bible)  
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*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).*

SERMON INCARNATION: PARENTS OF GOD Reverend Joel Weible

## 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 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.*

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!"

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.*

*This unusual dialogue hymn (No. 20) alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ.*

*"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 arrangement of the joyful Advent hymn (No. 12) has the spirit of a Christmas carol, but with an imaginative Advent text. "People, look east. The time is near. Trim the hearth and set the table. Love the guest is on the way!"*

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night"

JOSEPH PARRY

\*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 BENEDICTION

Reverend Joel Weible

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE "People, Look East"

F.D. ASHDOWN

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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