

# PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*“Learning, Glorifying, Celebrating, and Following ...”*

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## GATHERING ...

Gathering Music  
The Ringing of the Bell  
Words of Welcome

## PREPARING ...

**Prelude**      Good King Wenceslas      arr. R. ELLIOTT

**The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Opening Prayer**  
Jennifer Robards

### **Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

O God, the beginning of creation is also the beginning of the story of redemption. In being welcomed, and in “being welcome”, we have learned the beautiful truth of all: You live among us. You live within us. May our homes, too, shine in the darkness in every season. Amen.

**\*Hymn 133**    O Come, All Ye Faithful      ADESTE FIDELIS

**Call to Confession and Prayer** (*unison*)      Margaret Hill  
God of wonders, we hear with awe the stories of the birth of Jesus: Magi, Shepherds. Angels traveling from afar, living in the fields and filling the sky. And then we are reminded that this was how it was in the very beginning and how it is supposed to be always: Faith, Hope, Joy, and Love. Forgive us for ever offering less. Help *us* to be your Word incarnate through this day, this special evening, on Christmas, and every day of our lives. In Christ’s name, hear our silent prayers of return ...

*(A Time of Silence for Personal Confession: Pray the above prayer again, but this time substitute “I, my, and me” for “we, our, and us”.)*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Siblings in Christ, speak promise:

**People: God loves us. God forgives us.**

Leader: God is coming to us even now to save us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ALL: ALLELUIA! AMEN.**

**\*Response 106**    Prepare the Way, O Zion      BEREDEN VAG FOR HERREN  
(*stanza 1 only*)

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

## HEARING ...

**Sacred Space and Prayers for the Children**      Ashia Stoess

**Anthem**      Only a Baby Came      NATALIE SLEETH

**Scripture**      John 1:1-5, 14a

**Message**      CHRISTMAS AT JOHN’S HOUSE      Rev. Joel Weible

**\*Hymn 108**    Of the Father’s Love Begotten      DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

## RESPONDING ...

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)      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!*”

### **Time of Giving Thanks**

Announcements

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

### **Call to Offering and Offertory**

**Offertory**      Ding Dong! Merrily on High!      arr. A. UNSWORTH

**\*Doxology 606**    Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow  
OLD HUNDRETH

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. May our offering this morning, too, be used to tell the story of your deep love in this wide world. By your grace, may all that we offer and all that we do welcome home all who are in need of comfort and joy. Amen.

**SENDING ...**

**\*Hymn 134** Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**The Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Postlude** Joy to the World!/The Little Prelude

G.F.F. HANDEL

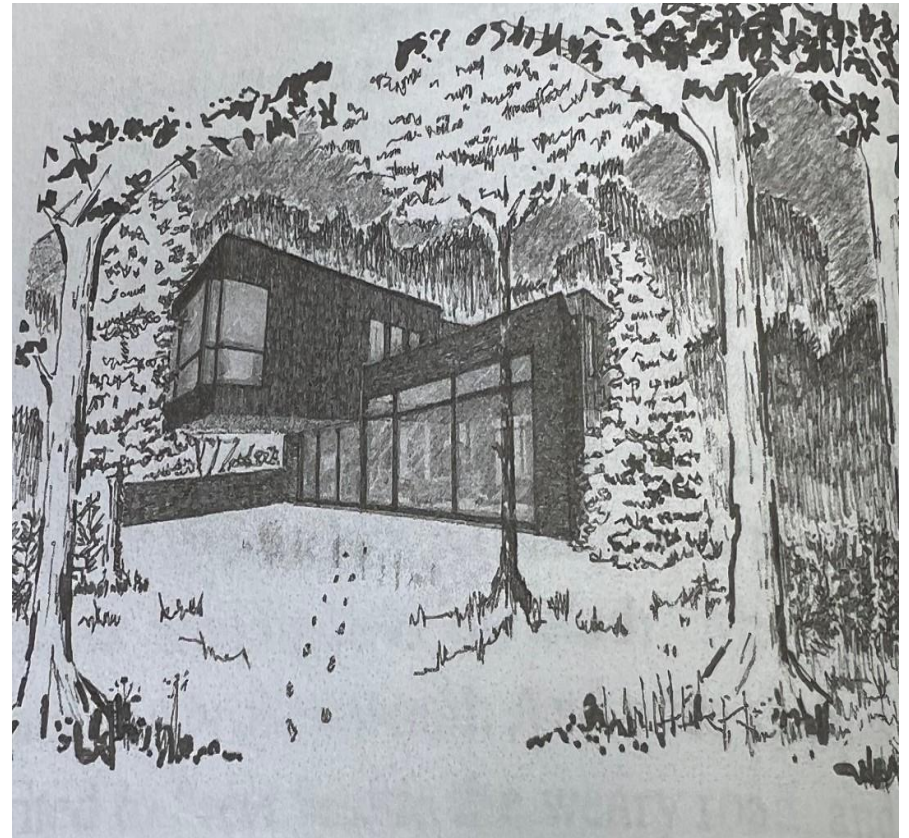
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*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

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

Rev. Joel Weible's sermons are posted on our website each week at [PeweeValleyPresbyterian.org](http://PeweeValleyPresbyterian.org) under the "Media" tab.

**Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church**



***ADVENT 2023: Welcome Home!***  
***This week: John's Gospel Home***

**Sunday Morning Worship**

December 24, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent