

**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**      Once in Royal David's City      arr. L. LARSON

**The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Opening Prayer**  
David, Kate, Elle, and Helena Akers

**Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

God of Love, we do rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Now we need not fear the grave. Jesus Christ was born to save. Thank you for welcoming us Home. Amen.

**\*Hymn 132**    Good Christian Friends, Rejoice      IN DULCI JUBILO

**Call to Confession and Prayer** (*unison*)      Patty Clark  
Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you, but so often we get in the way of ourselves. We see only the deep sadness of the world, and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow. We assume that things will never get better, and do not see all that is good right now. We close our eyes and complain about the darkness, rather than see the light that shines all around us. Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again, we will see him, and know him, and share him. Hear now 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**      Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!      K. LEE SCOTT

**Scripture**      Mark 13:32-37

**Message**      CHRISTMAS AT MARK'S HOUSE    Rev. Joel Weible

**\*Hymn 87**      Comfort, Comfort Now My People      GENEVAN 42

**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**     Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness!     G.F.F. HANDEL

**\*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.

### **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION** (*see insert*)

Serving Communion: Patty Clark, Rick Fletcher, Linda Heleringer

### **SENDING ...**

**\*Hymn 104**     O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?  
VALEET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

### **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **The Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Postlude**     Wake Up! The Time is At Hand!     arr. D. CHERWIEN

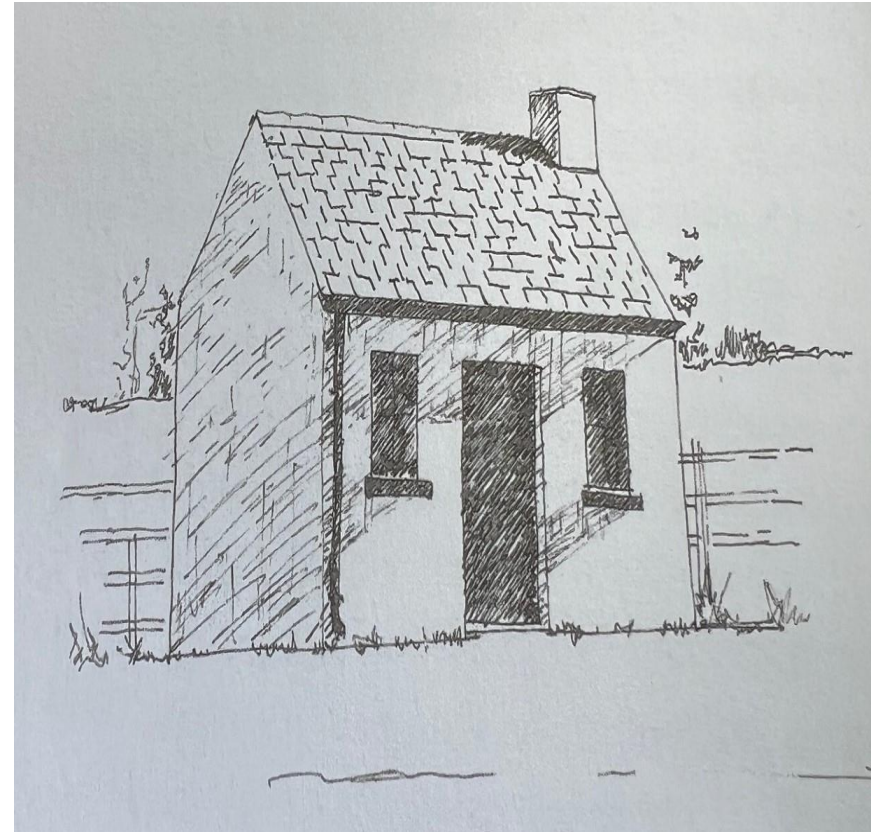
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*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

### ***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!***

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

December 3, 2023 - First Sunday of Advent

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Invocation

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to be thankful and full of praise.**

### Advent Invitation and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Long ago and far away, village shepherds were tending their flocks one winter evening, dimly aware of ancient promises and a lingering hope they hardly understood. Suddenly light shone in the darkness, and the air was full of unexpected news. Confused and frightened, they knew that everything was different now, though nothing had actually changed.

**So they went to Bethlehem, which means “place where bread is baked.” There they saw a Child who owned nothing but a name. And it was good bread to them, the sight of this Child.**

Sung Response, Hymn No. 552

LAND OF REST

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Like those shepherds, we remember ancient hopes and wonder what they mean, or if they could be real. Like them, we are frightened by sudden disturbances and unexpected news.

**The world is older now, but nothing has seemed to change. We are still uncomfortable with angels.**

Yet we leave our houses and routines to come to this place, where baked Bread has been placed in promise of Bethlehem.

**We, too, have had glimpses of holiness, and we are nourished by them. At this table we claim the food of sacred stories and of our own lives. We remember how it is that ordinary people like us find angels. And we celebrate the mystery of our faith.**

Sung Response, Hymn No. 553

LAND OF REST

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.  
Christ has died, Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

Lord, our God, you sent your light into the world in the form of a tiny child. Fragile and vulnerable, he grew to be the very Light of Light for us, full of grace and truth, revealing your glory on earth. We thank you. Help us to receive your gifts with joy and humility; as we receive this bread and cup, may we open our hearts to receive your love and grace, and the love and support of one another.

**Be born among us, that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(Please wait to partake of the elements until all are served.)

### Prayer after the Sharing (*unison*)

O God, we thank you for knowing when we are hungry, before we ourselves know it. We thank you for the friendship of Christ that has a meal ready for us when we are weary and powerless to provide for ourselves. Fed now, and strengthened, grant us the humility and enthusiasm to leave this table and carry on Christ's work, witness, and worship in the world. Amen.

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