



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

10:30 AM



Village Church

FOLLOWING JESUS FOR LIFE

THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Approaching God in Praise and Prayer

+All who are able may stand

*As you enter this holy space and sacred time, please quiet your mind, meditate on the Scriptures,
and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare you to worship the Living God.*

PRELUDE

Pastoral Symphony (from Messiah)

G. F. Handel
Suzanne Shick, organ

WELCOME

The Rev. Janice Y. Cook

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them, light has shined.

**People: You have multiplied the nation you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest.**

Leader: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**People: For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leader: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.
He will establish and uphold his kingdom with justice and righteousness
from this time onwards and always.

All: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

+ HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Jack W. Baca

You, Lord Jesus, came to save us from ourselves. You came with a message of love and forgiveness, an attitude of grace and mercy, and a determined will to live into God's purpose. You call us to follow you, see the world as you see it, and treat one another as we have been treated by you. All these gifts and sacred decisions hang in the air, waiting for our response. Forgive us, Lord, when we hesitate. Forgive us when we calculate the costs and find the price too demanding. Remind us that love paid the price for each of us, and nothing less will do. Help us to love freely and extravagantly, as we are loved, and forgive us when we withhold mercy and deny grace to the least of these.

+ MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

+ ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+ RESPONSE: HYMN 114

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

+ PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Wells Family

At this time, children 5th grade and younger may meet their Sunday School leaders at the back of the Sanctuary.

Youth 6th grade and older are gathered in the Youth Room.

VILLAGE LIFE

Offering Ourselves to God

OFFERTORY

An Advent Credo

Joseph M. Martin
Village Youth Choir
Section Leaders
Juan Carlos Acosta, director

+ RESPONSE: HYMN 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

Receiving God's Word

ANTHEM

Recitative, accompagnato and chorus
from Messiah

G. F. Handel
Chancel Choir
Calieanne Grossheim, soprano
Aaron Bullard, cello
Juan Carlos Acosta, harpsichord

THE WORD READ

Luke 2:8-20 (NT pg. 78)

Jan Caldwell, lay reader

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

“Meeting Jesus for the First Time:
The Nonreligious”

Responding to God's Word

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

People: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they
persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

+ HYMN 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

+ BENECTION

+ CHORAL BENECTION

O Christ, Surround Me

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Picardy"

Gordon Young

The Deacon of the Day, Malinda Adickes, can be found at the Welcome Table after service.

If you desire prayer, prayer ministers are available after worship. Please inquire at the Welcome Table.

*The cover art for today depicts a shepherd with his flock of sheep,
and was created by Amanda Thompson with the assistance of AI.*

This service is being livestreamed.

The Village Church Pastoral & Program Staff

The Rev. Dr. Jack W. Baca, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Janice Y. Cook, Interim Associate Pastor

Mary Thibodeau, Executive Administrator

Juan Carlos Acosta, Director of Worship Ministry

Adrian Narlock, Director of Media Ministry

Calieanne Grossheim, Asst. Director of Worship Ministry

Christine Hecker, Director of Youth Ministry

Twyla Arant, Music Ministries Coordinator

Michelle Yuen, Director of Children’s Ministry

Barbara Haran, Contemporary Worship Team Leader

Nancy Betts, Director of Preschool Ministry

Phyllis Graham, Bell Choir Director

Gretchen Scruggs, Director of Missions Ministry

Suzanne Shick, Organist

Gustavo Coria, Facilities Manager



**HONOR LOVED ONES WITH A
BIBLE OR HYMNAL
DEDICATION**

**SCAN QR CODE
TO GIVE ONLINE**



Recit., accompagnato, and chorus

There were shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flocks by night.

An Advent Credo

I believe in hope.
I believe in the life everlasting.
I believe that Christ will come
and bring a bright new day.

Lord, in my heart,
I believe.

When the darkness falls around me,
in the still of the night,
when shadows all surround me,
faith will lead me to the morning light!

I believe in peace,
I believe in a song of tomorrow.
I believe that Christ will come
and war shall be no more.

I believe in God's great love,
I believe in the grace that unites us.
I believe that Christ will come
in glory from above.

I believe in joy.
I believe in hope.
I believe in peace.
I believe in love.

Lord, I believe.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them,
and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them:
"Fear not, for behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord."

And suddenly, there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God, and saying:

Glory to God!
Glory to God in the highest!
And peace on earth.

Goodwill toward men.

O Christ, Surround Me

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.