



Village Church
FOLLOWING JESUS FOR LIFE

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:30 AM

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

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms
Suzanne Shick, organ

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Jack W. Baca

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Luke 1

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior,

People: For he who is mighty has done great things for us, and holy is his name.

Leader: His mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.

People: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

Leader: Let us worship God.

+ HYMN 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Janice Y. Cook

Everlasting and Always Loving God: Long ago you sent your messengers to tell the Good News of your mercy and forgiveness, but still our ears refuse to hear, our eyes fail to see, and our hearts remain closed to you. We have ignored your wisdom and counsel regarding how we are to live; we have considered ourselves only and ignored the hurt of others; we have preferred instead to create our own truth. Sing to us again, Prince of Peace, in this holy season, that we may have still another chance to receive your gift of yourself, in your Son, and become messengers to others of your saving grace. In Christ, the Lord, we pray. Amen.

+ MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

+ ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+ RESPONSE: HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

+ PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*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*Vom Himmel Hoch (From Heaven High I Come To Earth)*

arr. Johann Pachelbel

+ RESPONSE: HYMN 145**What Child Is This**

GREENSLEEVES

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

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*Lo, How a Rose/The Rose*

Craig Hella Johnson
Chancel Choir
Barbara Haran, soloist
Calianne Grossheim, conductor

THE WORD READ

Isaiah 11:1-10 (OT pg. 797)

Bob Heintz, lay reader

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

"How A Rose E'er Blooming"

The Rev. Dr. Jack W. Baca

Responding to God's Word

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now let us, your servants, depart in peace, according to your word, for our eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

Verse one, soloist.

Verses two-five, congregation.

+ BENEDICTION

+ CHORAL BENEDICTION

Song of Simeon

Juan Carlos Acosta

POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships

David Lasky

The Deacon of the Day, Ursula Kuster, 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 rose blooming amidst the snow,
and was created by Adrian Narlock 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, Executive 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

David Herman, Director of Adult Ministry

Gustavo Coria, Facilities Manager

Francesca Ngo, Public Relations Coordinator



HONOR LOVED ONES WITH A
BIBLE OR HYMNAL
DEDICATION

SCAN QR CODE
TO GIVE ONLINE



Lo How a Rose/The Rose

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.*

Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed.
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.

Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;

It came, a Flow'ret bright,

Some say love, it is a hunger,
an endless aching need;

Amid the cold of winter

I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.

When half-spent was the night

It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;

It's the dream afraid of waking
that never takes the chance;

It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give;
And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.

*This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,*

When the night has been too lonely
and the road has been too long;

*Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.*

And you think that love is
only for the lucky and the strong;

True Man, yet very God,

Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;

From sin and death He saves us

Lies the seed that with the sun's love,
in the spring becomes the rose.

And lightens ev'ry load.

Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant
depart in peace according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation
which thou hast prepared before all people.

A light, a light to lighten the gentiles
and the glory of thy people Israel.

ANTHEM NOTES

Composer and conductor Craig Hella Johnson said of this piece (Lo, How a Rose/The Rose) came from a sense that these two songs were "calling out" to one another across the centuries.

The Rose and its reflections on the nature of love ultimately reach the same conclusion as *Lo, How a Rose*: that love blooms under the most unlikely circumstances, if we are only willing to see the "seed" inside of us, which was revealed to us by Jesus Christ.