



CHATTANOOGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vision: To see lives transformed through following Jesus

Mission: Making disciples through worship, fellowship & service

Values: Worship, word, compassion & community

Order of Worship | December 18, 2022

Liturgist: Brad Voyles | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis

Worship Leader: Scott Finch

Praise Gathering

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; a world without end. Amen! Amen!

Invocation

L: Almighty and merciful God, we have been drawn by the light of your countenance and the intensity of your love for us in Christ. We are grateful this advent season to have the opportunity once again to reflect on the incarnation of Jesus for our sake. Give us dispositions of cheerful obedience as we wait for you. Thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit to guide us in this hour as we sing songs of praise, as we tell you our burdens, and as we hear from your Word. Amen.

Welcome and Greeting

Advent IV Meditation | Readers: Michael & Marie Fennema

Exodus 40:16-33: This Moses did; according to all that the LORD commanded him, so he did. In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He put the table in the tent of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil, and arranged the bread on it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He put the lampstand in the tent of meeting, opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle, and set up the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil, and burned fragrant incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He put in place the screen for the door of the tabernacle. And he set the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the

tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He set the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing, with which Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet. When they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed, as the LORD commanded Moses. And he erected the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.

John 1:1-14: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:1-5

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

ALL: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

L: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

ALL: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

L: For he will hide me in his tabernacle in the day of trouble;

ALL: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Song of Adoration: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates | 198

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.
2. A helper just he comes to thee, his chariot is humility, his kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.
3. O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed! O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!
4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
5. Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide! Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.
6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin! Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

Prayer of Adoration & 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.

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

Our good God and Father, as we consider the record of Jesus' incarnation, we are reminded that our obedience to your Word is frequently different from that of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men of old. Unlike Mary, we bristle when you change our plans rather than submit. In contrast to Joseph, we spend a good part of our time worrying about our reputation instead of simply obeying your Word. We shiver when we think of the exuberance that the shepherds had when you disturbed their night—they hurried to see your great work. And instead of bringing you an abundance of our gifts of time, treasure and talent like the wise men, we grow weary of doing good with even the slightest of trials. Your Spirit delighted to work through all of these weak human vessels, and so we ask that you would work like this in us. Only you can intervene and provide hope. Reach into our lives and miraculously invade our

space so that we may be changed. Search our hearts and know our thoughts. Forgive us for the sake of the Savior you sent and make us more like him.

(Time of silent confession.)

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Song of the Month: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (See page 8.)

Sermon: "Joy Inexpressible"

Word: Esther 8:15-17 & 9:18-32

Song of Response: O Come, All Ye Faithful | 208

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of Light; lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb: very God, begotten, not created; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; glory to God in the highest; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning: Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sacrament of Communion

Doxological Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory | 218 (final stanza with Amen)

5. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son; evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. Amen.

Offertory Prayer, Offering, & Opportunities to Serve

Sending Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus | 196

1. 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. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear; come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, for thy birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the angels singing new, glad tidings of a birth; "Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end; by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend. Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall; this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

4. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Benediction: Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit... *so that all the people will say...*

ALL: Amen. Our Lord is faithful. Praise the Lord!

Questions for Reflection: Esther 8:15-17 & 9:18-32

1. How did the Lord turn the sadness of the Israelites in Susa into joy? How does Jesus turn our sadness into joy?

2. The feast of Purim was supposed to remind the children of God's deliverance. What does Christmas remind us of?

3. Think of some practical ways we can have joy amidst a sorrowful world.

Today at CVPC

The **Finch & Marr Growth Groups** are in Overflow this week.

Prayer Time following the worship service in the Morse Classroom.

Meet at 5:00pm in the Church parking lot for **Caroling, Cocoa & Cookies**. Bring a sweet treat to share.

Please join CVPC in wishing a Happy Birthday to the following:

Joseph Ibach | December 21

Liz Gross | December 23

Christmas Eve Service: On Christmas Eve at 5:30pm, we will have our traditional Lessons and Carol service. Historically, this is an evangelistic service designed to teach those unfamiliar with Christianity the true message of Christmas through song and scripture reading. We ask that you please invite friends, members of your family, and neighbors to join us for this wonderful service as we are reminded of the fall of man and the promise and the birth of the Messiah.

Town Hall Meeting: Join us on Sunday, January 8, for the "Year in Review" Town Hall during Sunday School at 9:00am. Nursery will be provided.

Visitors, we invite you to connect with CVPC!

Scan this code with your phone's camera. You'll connect to CVPC's ChurchConnect site.



Upcoming at CVPC

	December 19-25	December 26 - January 1
Monday	4PM: Manse Reserved	
Tuesday	6PM: Session Meeting	
Wednesday	6PM: Young Adult Fellowship Time	
Thursday	Church Office Closed	
Friday	Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed
Saturday	7AM: Men's Bible Study 5:30PM: Christmas Eve Service	7AM: Men's Bible Study
Sunday	10:30AM: Worship	10:30AM: Worship
Elder on Call	bradvoyles@chattvalleypca.com	davidmarr@chattvalleypca.com
Deacon On Call	joshhenry@chattvalleypca.com	chrisgregory@chattvalleypca.com
Overflow	Chaplin/Staven/Wallick GG	Louis GG
Greeters	Grady Family	Granberry Family
Youth	No Youth Group	No Youth Group
Nursery: SS	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
Nursery: Worship	Rachel Staven, Anna Staven, & Lucie Chaplin	Pam Kennedy, Ethan Kennedy, & Sydney Kennedy

216 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Finch
Stanzas 3 & 4 by Finch

♩ = 96

G(sus4) G D(sus4) D Bm D G(sus4) G



1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly for his bed a cat - tle stall; ox - en
2. Flocks were sleep - ing: shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new; saw the
3. Christ of glo - ry, we im - plo - re thee; make us live as un - to thee. By your
4. Praise the Fa - ther who has known us e'vn be - fore the world was made; Praise the

6 G(sus4) G D(sus4) D Bm D G(sus4) G C(add2) C



low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe, is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing an - gels
glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from
Spir - it, pure and ho - ly, give us true hu - mil - i - ty. Grant us faith filled with com
Son He free - ly sent us as an act of sov - reign grace; Praise the Spir - it who was

11 D(add2) D Em(add2) Em D(sus4) D



sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing: Christ the
sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row: Christ the
pas - sion. Lend us hope to show the na - tions; "Christ, in
giv - en as the seal of our re - demp - tion; Praise the

14 Bm D Em(add2) Em Bm D G(sus4) G(add2) G



babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all. _____
babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you. _____
love, has come for you." Christ, in love, has come for you." _____
Tri - une LORD of all. Praise the Tri - une LORD of all. _____