December 12, 2021

Glory to the Newborn King

Advent 2021
ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERED BY GOD FOR WORSHIP
- Welcome
- Call to Worship
  - Isaiah 12:2-6
- Songs of Praise
  - Come Praise and Glorify
  - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
- Prayer of Adoration

RENEWED BY GOD THROUGH GRACE
- Confession of Sin
  - Romans 3:21-23
- Declaration of Grace
  - Romans 6:14
- Songs of Renewal & Gratitude
  - Hallelujah, What a Savior!
  - Not What My Hands Have Done

SET APART BY GOD
- Offering
- Sermon
- The Lord’s Supper
- Profession of Faith
  - The Apostle’s Creed

SENT BY GOD
- Kids Program
- Song of Response
  - O Come All Ye Faithful
- Blessing

General Offering: November 29 - December 5.....$ 31,799
- Weekly Budget Need...........................................$ 26,808
- Last Week’s Surplus.............................................$ 4,991
- PPP2 Loan (adjustment).......................................$ 130,000
- Adjusted Budget Deficit (YTD).............................($208,286)

This information can also be found at valleysprings.org
CALL TO WORSHIP

2 “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

5 “Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

6 Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

- Isaiah 12:2-6 (English Standard Version)

READINGS

COME PRAISE AND GLORIFY (Words and Music by Bob Kauflin and Tim Chester, 2011)

Come praise and glorify our God, the Father of our Lord. In Christ, He has in heav’nly realms, His blessings on us poured. For pure and blameless in His sight He destined us to be, And now we’ve been adopted through His Son eternally.

To the praise of Your glory, to the praise of Your mercy and grace; To the praise of Your glory, you are the God who saves.

Come praise and glorify our God, who gives His grace in Christ. In Him, our sins are washed away, redeemed through sacrifice. In Him, God has made known to us the myst’ry of His will, That Christ should be the head of all, His purpose to fulfill.

Come praise and glorify our God, for we’ve believed the Word; And through our faith we have a seal the Spirit of the Lord. The Spirit guarantees our hope until redemption’s done, Until we join in endless praise to God, the Three in One.
**READINGS**

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- Romans 3:21-23 (English Standard Version)

**DECLARATION OF GRACE**

14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

- Romans 6:14 (English Standard Version)
HALLELUJAH, WHAT A SAVIOR  (Words and Music by Philip Paul Bliss)

“Man of sorrows!” what a name for the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim! Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned He stood
Sealed my pardon with His blood: Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Guilty, vile and helpless we, spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full atonement! can it be? Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die, “It is finished,” was His cry;
Now in heav’n exalted high: Hallelujah, what a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King, all His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we’ll sing: Hallelujah, what a Savior!

NOT WHAT MY HANDS HAVE DONE  
(Words and Music by Horatius Bonar; Rewritten by Thena Beam)

Not what my hands have done, can save my guilty soul.
Not what my toiling flesh has borne, can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do, can give me peace with God.
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears, can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin.
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee;
Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free!

I praise the God of grace, I trust his truth and might.
He calls me his, I call him mine; my God, my joy, my light.
’Tis he who saveth me and freely pardon gives.
I love because he loveth me; I live because he lives!
Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” And he laid his hands on them and went away.


REFLECTION QUESTIONS (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

• What makes you feel the most child-like at Christmas time?

• What are the earliest memories you have of being with God’s people? Do you remember the first time you heard about Jesus?

• Why would parents bring their children to Jesus? Why might the disciples discourage this? What is Jesus’ view of children and the kingdom?

• What ways do you see in our wider culture that indicate how the next generation is included in a rich tradition?
Let the Children Come to Me
Matthew 19:13-15

Jesus says, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

What are the dynamics of his invitation to the kingdom?

His Father has hidden the kingdom from the wise...

His Father has revealed the kingdom to little children...
At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- Matthew 11:25-30 (English Standard Version)

“You have to write the book that wants to be written. And if the book will be too difficult for grown-ups, then you write it for children.”

- Madeleine L’Engle

“When we were children, we used to think that when we were grown-up we would no longer be vulnerable. But to grow up is to accept vulnerability...To be alive is to be vulnerable.”

- Madeleine L’Engle

“Children respond to anything a writer asks of them – as long as there isn’t any wax around. It’s often possible to make demands upon a child that couldn’t be made of an adult. Sometimes the very acquisition of knowledge (something quite different from wisdom) can hold us back. For instance, in some of the stories by H.G. Wells or Jules Verne, Arthur C. Clarke or Fred Hoyle, a child will actually understand scientific concepts that would baffle an adult. This is because he can understand with a leap of the imagination that is denied the grown-up who has acquired the little knowledge that is a dangerous thing. Einstein’s clock concept, time, motion and space intricately involving each other, is based on mathematical knowledge; luckily I came across it while I was still young enough not to be frightened out of understanding it by my mathematical deficiencies; I’ve seen children have the same experience.”

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
   Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
   who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
   and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
   was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
   and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
   the holy catholic* church,
   the communion of saints,
   the forgiveness of sins,
   the resurrection of the body,
   and the life everlasting. Amen.

* (“catholic” means “world-wide” in scope rather than regional or sectarian)

READINGS

SONGS

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL (Latin hymn / Music: John Francis Wade, 1751)

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.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
ANGEL TREE: An opportunity to reach out to children of inmates and their families with the love of Christ. This year, our tree is virtual! Look for the link to participate in This Week at Valley Springs, or contact Isaac Noschka (isaac@valleysprings.org / (916) 786-7940 x140).

WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY: You are invited to the Women’s Ministry Annual Christmas Gathering! Join us December 17th at 6:30pm for appetizers, desserts, and warm drinks. We will gather at Cheri Thomas’ home and celebrate the season together through fellowship, a Christmas devotional, and carols. Please RSVP at valleysprings.org/women, or to Sarah Esswein: sarah.esswein@gmail.com.

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY: All-church get-together Sunday, December 19th, 5pm-7pm, in the Worship Room. Carol singing, desserts, cookie exchange, sweater contest, cookie decorating, and congregational games! Look for sign-up link in This Week at Valley Springs.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: One family-friendly worship service at 6pm on Friday, December 24th. Come join us!

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDIES: New Bible studies for men and women begin in January. Registration open now. See the insert in today’s bulletin, or valleysprings.org for details.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING: Stephen Ministry provides confidential, Christ-centered care to individuals in the congregation and community who are experiencing life difficulties. A Stephen Ministry training class will begin in January 2022. This training is valuable for all relationships and is available for the entire congregation. The training requires weekly attendance, but there is no obligation to become a Stephen Minister. For more information, contact Laurie Whiddon: lauriewhiddon@yahoo.com.

For more information, visit www.valleysprings.org

OUR MISSION
Valley Springs Presbyterian Church is an intergenerational community of grace, learning to love God, and serve our world, together.

ELDER ON-CALL
(916) 786-7940, option 5
elders@valleysprings.org

CARE MINISTRIES & ASSISTANCE REQUESTS
(916) 786-7940, option 4
info@valleysprings.org