



27 november 2011

west valley presbyterian church

a church for the West Valley

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**"The Garden of Gethsemane is one of the most sacred and solemn scenes in the entire Bible." ~Sinclair Ferguson**

## reverence for one creator God

in three persons - Father, Son and Spirit

### called to worship by the Word

*from Psalm 31.23-24, Romans 8:1; Luke 1:68, 72*

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD! What is your hope?

**That there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Thanks be to God who fulfilled his prophecies to send to us a Savior! As it is written: Blessed is the Lord God to perform the mercy promised!**

### advent reading

#### lighting of the prophecy candle

*Isaiah 7.14, Luke 1.68-79*

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Immanuel.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;

to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

### **All Creatures of our God and King**

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

***O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest man both warmth and light.

And thou most kind and gentle Death,  
Waiting to hush our latest breath,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou leadest home the child of God,  
And Christ our Lord the way hath trod.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

greeting . announcements

## renewal by one holy God

by the Spirit, through the Son, to the Father

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**-*offering*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

***Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, Free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
That trust Thy mighty power to save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

## personal meditation on brokenness and sin

*from Titus 2.11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

## communal prayer for mercy

*from the Valley of Vision, Book of Puritan Prayers*

O God of grace, you have imputed my sin to my substitute, Jesus, and have imputed his righteousness to my soul. But in my Christian walk I am still in rags, my best prayers are stained with sin. I need to repent of my repentance. I need my tears to be washed. Wrestling with hopelessness, I wait for the blessed hope of my God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for me! Grant that I never lose sight of him. Grant that I never lose sight of...

the exceeding sinfulness of my sin;  
the exceeding righteousness of salvation;  
the exceeding glory of Christ;  
the exceeding wonder of grace. Amen.

## communal celebration of righteousness

*from Psalm 32.1-2*

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!  
**Blessed is the one against whom the Lord counts no iniquity!**

### **The Wonderful Cross**

When I survey the wondrous cross,  
On which the Prince of Glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

***Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;  
Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.***

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
Did ever such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all

## the preaching of the Word

**Jesus, Thank You**

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend  
The agonies of Calvary  
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son  
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

**Your blood has washed away my sin**  
**Jesus, thank You**  
**The Father's wrath completely satisfied**  
**Jesus, thank You**  
**Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table**  
**Jesus, thank You**

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near  
Your enemy You've made Your friend  
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace  
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

**Lover of my soul**  
**I want to live for You**

## benediction<sup>1 Peter 1.3-4</sup>

Go in the blessed hope of God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! Amen.

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\*all quotations from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* © 2001 by *Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.*

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## the potter's wheel - wvpc kids ministry

**nursery (0-24 months) and toddlers (2s-3s):** offered during entire service.

**children (4yrs-5th grade):** dismissed to age appropriate classes following children's sermon, returning to families prior to the Lord's Supper

Room available for nursing mothers located through side hallway door.

Parents: have you received a copy of our children's ministry policies and "agreement to be a blessing"? If not, please see Rachel. Thank you for partnering with us as we join you in your calling to mold your children with the word/hands of the Potter (Isaiah 64:8)

QUESTIONS: contact Rachel at [rachel@westvalleypres.org](mailto:rachel@westvalleypres.org) or 610.762.0786

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## wvpc announcements

**Advent Devotionals** - Please take a West Valley Advent Devotional home today! Starting **today**, this booklet will help guide you and your family through Advent with scripture, guided discussion, prayer, and song as we seek to understand and celebrate the season of Advent together. Each week includes four brief devotionals. FMI, contact Jim.

### wvpc community groups!

**Royes/Aielo Group:** First meeting: **Sunday December 4th**, 5:00pm at the home of Jeff and Danielle Aiello. For more details and directions, contact the Aiellos at: 610.844.5247

**Christison/Nussbaum group:** **Sundays, 7pm** at home of Matt and Jane Nussbaum. Next meeting **Sunday 4th December**. For more details and directions, contact Dominic Christison at: [christison.d@gmail.com](mailto:christison.d@gmail.com)

**Buck group:** **Starting in January**. For more details, please contact Chip or Karen Buck: 610.442.4866

**Pasta Donations** Angel Network has asked us to collect 100 boxes of pasta (1 pound boxes only please) by Dec 4. Please bring your boxes to church with you! FMI contact Kathryn Christison 610-351-5033 or email [dkchristison@gmail.com](mailto:dkchristison@gmail.com)

**wvpc men's study on biblical courage @ church building:**- Saturday mornings @7am - contact Richard Shaffer, [Shaffer3965@gmail.com](mailto:Shaffer3965@gmail.com), Monday nights @ 8:30pm - contact John Gibbons, [gibbonjj@airproducts.com](mailto:gibbonjj@airproducts.com)

**wvpc women's Bible Study on Ruth!** (contact Jane Nussbaum at [mattjanenussbaum@hotmail.com](mailto:mattjanenussbaum@hotmail.com) or 610.295.3626)

**Morning Study:** 9:15-11:15am on Thursday mornings at church, childcare available (\$2 donations per child if desired)

**Evening study:** 8-10pm at the home of Megan Royes (3905 Minor St, Emmaus, 18049), no childcare