



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION... *A New Way*

Be still for a few minutes every day this Advent season and wonder, "God, what are you doing in me?" Simply sit and wait. God is doing the work; your job is to be present.

LET US WORSHIP *(stand in body or spirit to sing ~)*

***O COME, LET US ADORE HIM! O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM CHRIST THE LORD!**

ZEPHANIAH 3 *(14-17; all read the bold; NIV)*

Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart!

The Lord has taken away your punishment, and turned back your enemy.
**The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you
and never again will you fear any harm.**

*Do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves will take great delight in you.*
He will rejoice over you with singing!

***HYMN 143 "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"** *(stand in body or spirit and sing)*

*~ *Share the Peace of Christ ~*

"Joy to the World" *Clara Phelps, piano*

"Angels We Have Heard on High" *Laura deLalla, piano;
joined by her teacher, Janet Phelps*

"Little Drummer Boy" *Wycliffe's Music-Makers*

Wycliffe

December 15, 2024 Advent III

Rev. Dr. Garrett Bugg, *pastor*
Rev. Lyndsey McCall-Gilliam, *associate*



Mary & Joseph travel to Bethlehem

Long, long ago, a ruler named Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register.

Joseph was a man of God who was pledged to be married to Mary. He was shocked when an angel told him she would have a child, but the angel said "Do not be afraid!" So they left Nazareth in Galilee on a starry night, and went to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, to register because Joseph belonged to the house of David.



- all sing -

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (p.121)

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*



In Bethlehem, the baby Jesus is born . . .

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and an angel whispered "Do not be afraid!" and Mary gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

- all sing -

“Silent Night” (p. 122)

*Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright
‘round yon virgin mother and Child,
holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

There were shepherds watching their sheep

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified, but the angel said “Do not be afraid!”

And suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all people.”



- all sing -

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (p.119)

*Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!”
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.*

*Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*



So the shepherds found the baby in the manger, and knelt and worshipped him. And Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.

“The Little Cradle Rocked”

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Jay Althouse

*The little cradle rocked that night in glory -
Little baby born in Bethlehem!*

*The little baby’s mother, she rocked the cradle
on that night in glory.*

Sing amen! Amen! The little cradle rocked in glory!



Wise Men saw his star in the East and came to worship him

*The star stopped over the place where the child was.
When they saw the star, they rejoiced and came to kneel
before the child, bowed and worshipped him. Then they
opened treasures and presented him with gifts of gold,
frankincense and myrrh. And when it was time to leave,
an angel said to them, "Do not be afraid - but go home
another way."*



"The First Nowell" (p.147 ~ all sing)

(women sing) *They looked up and saw a star
shining in the East beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.*

(all sing) *Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel.*

(men sing) *And by the light of that same star,
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.*

(all sing) *Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel.*

'Kneeling in Bethlehem' (Ann Weems)

*This year, let's all go to Bethlehem and see this thing
that the Lord has made known to us.
In the midst of shopping sprees, let's ponder the Gift of Gifts.
Through tinsel and glitter let's look for
the gold of the Christmas Star.*

*Amidst the excitement and merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
Do not be afraid! Let's go to Bethlehem,
and find our own kneeling place.*



A PREPARATION FOR PRAYER *(all read the bold)*

Today we pray for the children who sneak popsicles before supper,
and who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those who stare at photographers from behind
barbed wire, who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead,
who never go to the circus and live in an x-rated world.

We pray for children who have sticky kisses & fistfuls of dandelions
who never clean their glasses and always forget their lunch.

And we pray for those who never get dessert, who have no safe blanket
to drag behind them, who watch their parents watch them die,
who can't even find bread to steal, and have no room to clean,
whose pictures aren't on anyone's dresser.

We pray for children who spend their allowance before Tuesday,
who pick at their food, who shove dirty clothes under the bed,
who get visits from the Tooth Fairy and squirm in church,
whose tears can make us laugh, and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those whose nightmares come in the daylight,
who have never seen a dentist, who have grown accustomed to gunfire,
who aren't spoiled by anybody, and cry themselves to sleep.

We pray for all children, for all need a Bethlehem this Christmas.



The Prayers of the People

followed by The Lord's Prayer (on the screen)



Scripture ~ Matthew 1:18-24

The Word of God is Opened to Us

Rev. Lyndsey McCall-Gilliam



A TIME OF CONFESSION *(all read the bold)*



As December streets fill with children's laughter, bright lights and shoppers, God leads us along a different path - to a desert river and the voice of prophets; tough, unexpected decisions, and a call to service.

Loving God, wake us from the fog of low expectations. Help us shake off the world's despair, the busyness of the season, the downward spiral of judging and protecting ourselves.

**Give us childlike vision for the unimaginable,
the urgency to act that springs up in youth,
and the patience of maturity to wait for the fullness of time.**

Refrain

All sing Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE & MERCY . . . *And all say: Thanks be to God.*

***HYMN 113 "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"** *(stand in body or spirit & sing)*

***THE BENEDICTION**

***Join us for the annual Cookie Exchange in the fellowship hall!
(to the left as you leave the sanctuary)***

GIVING TO THE MISSION & MINISTRY OF WYCLIFFE

Giving is a natural overflow of a heart that is grateful for Jesus, who gave everything for us. A basket is available on the table as you leave the sanctuary for contributions of checks or cash. A secure link for electronic giving is available on the church's website at www.wycliffepresbyterian.org





Christmas Poinsettias

The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Garrett Bugg
*Given to the glory of God
in honor of our children, Emilia and Joey*

John & Kathy Burch
In memory of Corey Vonn

Carolyn & Joe Dearing
In loving memory of our parents

The deLalla Family
In memory of Ann Marie deLalla

Margaret Felts
*In memory of my parents,
Jean & Rudy Felts, in honor of friends
who have become my family, & in
gratitude to Wycliffe for giving me a
wonderful church home*

Kelly, Tommy, & Rose Holland
In memory of Nana Holland

Barry and Robin LaVigne
In honor of our family

Carol & Ken Marinak
In memory of Emma

Donald McNeill
*In memory of Dick & Geneva McNeill
In memory of Marcia Eppler*

The Newsom Family
To the Glory of God

Bob Prestridge
In gratitude for our church family

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Roberts
*In memory of Nicole Roberts,
Joe Wilkinson, and our parents*

Lee & Kathy Rivers
In gratitude for our new church family

Greg & Lisa Sowell
In memory of John E. & Norma Sowell

Chuck & Ruth Ann Steenburgh
*In memory of our beloved parents,
Ruth & Frank, Chuck & Louise*

Donice Schumm
*Given to the glory of God & in loving
memory of her son, Brett. "God has you
in his keeping, I have you in my heart."
Also given in memory of her parents and
grandparents. "Your lives were a blessing,
your memory lives on in my heart."*

Michael & Cindy Swezey
In honor of our children & grandchildren

Upcoming Week - December 15-21

TODAY: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:00 am (Zoom/209)

TODAY: CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGAENT during worship (sanctuary)

TODAY: CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL at 10:10 am (Ed. Wing)

TODAY: MIDDLE & H.S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS from 11 to 11:20 am (room 108)

TODAY: MUSIC MAKERS from 11 to 11:20 am (music room)

TODAY: PCUSA JOY OFFERING ~ *offering envelopes and info on the Narthex sideboard*

TODAY: CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP after worship (fellowship hall)

MONDAY: LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY at 6:30 pm (Betty Oliver's home)

TUESDAY: LADIES' LUNCH OUT at 12:00 pm (Westminster Canterbury Pub)

WEDNESDAY: ADULT SMALL GROUP at 9:30 am (room 209)

THURSDAY: GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP at 3:30 pm (room 207)

SATURDAY: MARIE FANCHER CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE at 3 pm (sanctuary)

SATURDAY: LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE at 6 pm (online only)

NEXT SUNDAY Dec. 22 (5-6:30pm) YULETIDE TUNES & TASTINGS

*A grand evening of carol-singing & fellowship at Ballyhoos,
2865 Lynnhaven Drive, led by the Elizabeth River Boys.
No RSVP is required, a great time to bring a friend!*



On the Horizon

December 24: Christmas Eve Children's Service at 3 pm (sanctuary)

December 24: Candlelight, Carols, and Communion at 5 pm (sanctuary)

January 5: Epiphany at 10 am (sanctuary)

January 6: Women's Christmas at 11 am (sanctuary)

