



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the magi and the shepherds
 have found their way home,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost and lonely one,
 To heal the broken soul with love,
 To feed the hungry children
 with warmth and good food,
 To feel the earth below,
 the sky above!
 To free the prisoner from all chains,
 To make the powerful care,
 To rebuild the nations
with strength of good will,
 To see God's children everywhere!
 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
 To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth!

~ Jim Strathdee, in response
to a Christmas poem by
Howard Thurman

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Valley Community Presbyterian Church
8060 SW Brentwood, Portland, Oregon 97225

December 27, 2009 at 10:00 AM

❖ *Please stand as you are able*
Bold Text is spoken by everyone

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

He is Born the Divine Child

Goemanne

ACOLYTES

David Caputo and Alex Blair

WELCOME & COMMON CONCERNS (Please sign and pass the friendship folder)

❖ CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* No. 31

❖

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, David Jimerson

Some people say that Christmas is for children.

Christmas is also for people of age and experience.

Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, and Zechariah, the priest, accepted new birth breaking into all their familiar patterns.

Simeon, the singer, and Anna, the prophet, hoped for many years to see the Messiah and then recognized the Messiah in a poor couple's baby.

How then shall we respond to Christ's promised coming?

With willingness for change, with patience in long waiting, with silence and singing, with the ability to see Christ in the least likely of our brothers and sisters.

❖ HYMN OF PRAISE

What Child Is This

No. 53

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emmanuel, God-with-us every day, we confess our sins:

We let the Christmas moment become the past in our lives.

We miss the holiness of children and the wisdom of old people.

We stop expecting miracles and Messiah.

We are so afraid to welcome death that we do not embrace life.

Reveal your salvation in us so that we may have peace. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

❖ RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

No. 579

❖ THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Cheryl Sloan

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

No. 36

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 61:1-4, John 1:1-9; 1 John 1:5-7

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Lanterns in the Snow
by Roger Robbennolt

Linda Sanderman

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (p.16)

RESPOND TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Carol of the Manger

Wood

❖ Doxology

❖ Prayer of Dedication

**In simple trust we bring our gifts,
our tithes of all we've known,
we hear your calling in this hour,
feel stirrings of the Spirit's power,
lift wings grown tired as stone.
To share our lives and spread the hope,
meant not for heaven afar,
but for your hurting and forlorn,
your child who wakened up this morn,
needing your love and ours.**

Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

❖ HYMN

Silent Night

No. 60

❖ BENEDICTION

The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us.

Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corner of our lives.

Let Christ's love shine in the darkest corners of our world.

God is with us! Alleluia! Amen!

❖ CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The First Nowell (verses 1-4)

No. 56

POSTLUDE

Sussex Carol

Wood