



First Sunday
OF ADVENT

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2009 at 10:00 AM

❖ *Please stand if you choose*
Bold Text is spoken by everyone

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

ORGAN PRELUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* Manz

ACOLYTES Lauren Schinkelwitz and Rory Schinkelwitz

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

OUR PURPOSE IN ACTION Christmas Joy Offering, Laurel Montes

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Foster, Montes and Bunten Family

❖ CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT
Come and Find the Quiet Center (verses 1 and 3 only) No. 2128

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP Warren Freeborg, Liturgist
Now is the time of watching and waiting.
The time of pregnant expectations of new life.
Now is the season of hope unfolding.
The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.
Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.
May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior! Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope.

❖ HYMN OF PRAISE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No. 2

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
always with us, always coming;
we confess that we do not know
how to prepare for your advent.

**We have forgotten how to hope for miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your coming reign;
we get distracted by the busyness of the season.**

**Forgive us God.
Grant us the wonder of the shepherds,
the courage of the magi,
the faith of Mary and Joseph.
Lead us to Bethlehem,
that we might discover again the good news of the gospel,
for Jesus' sake, for our sakes, for the sake of the world. Amen.**

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news in Jesus Christ.
**We can stand before God,
not through our own goodness,
but through God's great kindness to us.**
Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to you!

❖ 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

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps!

Thomas

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 25:1-13

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Time Between the Times

Pastor Minshew

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

RESPOND TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Call for the Offering

Piano Offertory

Romance in F#

Schumann

❖ Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 592

❖ Prayer of Dedication

O Lord, as we offer our gifts today, we also offer a prayer: that during this Advent season the selfless spirit of Christ may become increasingly incarnate in our lives. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

❖ HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 9

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Bring Forth the Kingdom (verses 2 and 4 only)

No. 2190

PIANO POSTLUDE

Intermezzo in A minor

Brahms

If you choose, you are invited to exit with the choir following the benediction, or remain seated and conclude worship with the postlude.