

“The child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.”

~ Luke 1:35



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Poinsettias in the sanctuary have been given in memory or honor of loved ones by the following friends and family

Virginia and Ann Johnson Robert A. Johnson
Pat Bird..... Loved Ones
George Reichard..... Susan Reichard
Neil and Sharon Baker..... Loved Ones
The Viestenz Family..... Ike Congleton and Hans Nicholls, Ralph and Shirley Viestenz
Lyle and Judy Chadwick..... Sue, Jack and Parents
Bruce and Jean Armstrong Our Parents and Bruce's Sister
Dan and Donna Rueff Our Parents and Loved Ones
Kerrie Standlee and Marilyn Hartzell Richard L. Hartzell, Alan D. Standlee
..... Jean L. Hartzell, Martha L. Standlee
Margaret Triplett Bill Triplett
Emma White..... Merrill White and Loved Ones
Geri Mitchell..... Bill Mitchell
Sally Moody Dick Powers, Robert Moody
Phyllis Patterson..... Bob Patterson and Barbara DeLacy
Pat and Richard Bryant Charles and Elizabeth
Virginia Grubb..... Norval Grubb
Linda Duncan and Family Daryl and Craig Duncan
Norma J. Weber Loved Ones
The Blair Family..... Anne Blair
Arlene Stiles Bill and Craig Stiles
Charlene Stansbury..... Dan F. Stansbury
Helen Green..... Bill Green
Bob and Wendy Archibald Bob and Kippy Archibald
Marilyn Conforti My Parents Rose and Sal Bellia
The Campbell Family..... Rosalie and Leonard Ranton
Chuck and Ann Miller..... Our Parents and Family
Bob and Darlene Cusick..... Our Parents
Shirley Smyth Everett Smyth
Terry and Shirley Hercher..... Loved Ones
Mary Kay and Mark Rodman Marian and Julius, Hessel and Ketih Rodman



A painting of the Nativity
by Italian artist Giotto di Bondone (1266-1337)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2011 † 8:00 PM

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

GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

MUSIC TO BEGIN WORSHIP
English Hand Bell Choir

In dulci jubilo
O Holy Night

J.S. Bach
arr. Beach

WELCOME

René Minshev

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

People of God: we gather, in worship:
To prepare ourselves to hear the song of the angels,
To go in heart and in mind to Bethlehem,
To see the loving-kindness of our God, the babe lying in a manger.
People of God: we gather, in worship:
To celebrate the hope and the mystery that Jesus Christ is born.

❖ PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 41

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Dan and Marah Murphy
Nathan and Kate White

Advent is a journey. It is a time of preparation, expectation, and waiting.
It is a time to remember, wonder, and marvel.

We have heard the prophets' words of warning and promise.

We have felt wonder and expectation like the shepherds.

We have heard the angels' announcements of good news.
We have journeyed to Bethlehem in our hearts and minds,
waiting for the Christ child's birth.

**As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ,
we remember that he comes to establish God's reign
of justice and peace on earth.**

All Pray: **God-with-us, as we light the Christ candle to signal peace
and goodwill to all on earth, may we remember all who yearn for you,
and all who gaze into the night sky in longing and in hope, listening
for an angel song. May the flame of your eternal light find a welcome
in every spirit this night. We ask this through the One who has
indeed come, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE *Advent Song* No. 2090, v.5
**Light the Christmas candles, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

CALL TO CONFESSION Rebecca Chancellor
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gentle God, you came as a child to give us the perfect example of
faithfulness. Asked to be perfect in simplicity, we have become
sophisticated. Asked to be perfect in humility, we have become proud.
Asked to be perfect in tranquility, we have become anxious. Look into
our hearts and see the brokenness of each of us, and forgive us anew...

...Silence is kept...

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy* No. 573

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

❖ THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

CHORAL RESPONSE *Betelehemu* arr. Jonathan Crutchfield

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Kate White

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON *Isaiah 9:2-7*

ANTHEM *For Unto Us a Child Is Born* John Atteberry

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 2:1-20*
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God!

HOMILY *Eye Exercises* René Minshew

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CHORAL RESPONSE *Balulalow* Gerald Custer

OFFERING AND SIGNING THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS
Offertory *Lo, How a Rose* Brahms
(Note: After the offertory, rise as the ushers pass your pew to present the offering for dedication.)

❖ DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 592

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

May God be also with you.

People of God, open your hearts,

We open our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to the Living God.

It is right to give thanks to the One who offers abundant life.

This is the night... .. Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (page 16)
BREAKING THE BREAD, BLESSING THE CUP
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE
PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

SHARE GOD'S WORD

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.**

Christ is born.

Let us walk in the light of Christ.

❖ HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night* No. 60

MUSIC TO CONCLUDE WORSHIP *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Rutter

*You are invited to remain seated to conclude worship with the postlude
or exit after the benediction.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

A SPECIAL WELCOME to all newcomers: we greet you
in the name of Jesus Christ. On Christmas morning, you
are invited to join us in worship at 11:00 AM in the
sanctuary. Following the service, there is coffee, cake,
and conversation in the Fireside Room. Nursery Care is
available for infants through 3-year olds on the lower
level in room 7.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER will be
celebrated tonight. Please come forward, if you are able,
as directed by the ushers. Take the bread, dip it in the
chalice and consume it. If you choose not to dip, you may
eat the bread, take a small cup and drink. Please leave
the cup in the basket provided. Return to your pew via
the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward, an
Elder will offer the elements to you in your pew. Gluten-
free bread will be available in a red cup.

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION
The Coming of the Light

A
pure
and
golden
light it
seems that
spreads across
the pews reflects
its radiance from the
mellow old carved oak
and hanging greens upon
the faces, hands of those
who sing so sweetly
"Silent Night." Look deep
into this gentle fire
and then go forth to bear
it far and tender to
wherever infants cold
and frightened tremble
in the dark with
no bright star
no kings
to
greet

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May God bless you as you worship here this evening!
Valley Community Presbyterian Church is a place for:
**Awakening Souls, Sharing Joy,
Serving God in Christ, TRANSFORMING LIVES**