



# Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

*Coming together to know Christ and to make him known.*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2018

### CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*Gesu Bambino*

Words: Frederick H. Martins / Music: Pietro A. Yon  
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### WELCOME & \*INVOCATION

Shelley Kral

**Pastor:** In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

**People:** **In him was life,  
and the life was the light of men.**

**Pastor:** The Word took on flesh;  
he became King in order for his joy to be in us and our joy to be full!

**People:** **We have joy not because of good circumstances but  
because of God's love and promises.  
The Word's light and life are restoring heaven and earth  
and nothing can separate us from that future!**

**All:** **Glory to the newborn King!**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*\* God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

**Refrain:** O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!  
O, tidings of comfort and joy!

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember, Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray. [Refrain]

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came.  
And, unto certain shepherds, brought tidings of the same.  
How, that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. [Refrain]

"Fear not", then said the angel, "Let nothing you affright.  
This day is born a Saviour of a pure virgin bright  
to free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place.  
And with true love and brotherhood, each other now embrace.  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface. [Refrain]

Words and Music - Unknown  
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**Welcome!** May each person who enters through our church doors this morning find great joy and spiritual nourishment as we worship together.

*Hearing devices are available in the foyer...ask an usher.*

*Please sign the friendship pads located at the end of each pew.*

**What does Advent have to do with worship?** From the time of Israel's enslavement in Egypt, God has been calling his people to gather together to worship him (e.g. Exodus 5:1). Yet the Old Testament shows us that through the centuries, despite prophet after prophet and revelations of who God is and his promises to Israel, Israel continually struggles to worship God. They prefer worshipping other things. As worship theologian and pastor Bob Kauflin writes, "The Old Testament ends not with jubilant celebration but with the painful realization that all our efforts to bring glory to God result in failure and condemnation. If God is to have a people who will worship him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, he will have to bring it about himself. After four hundred years, he does. Jesus is born, in an act of unfathomable love, Deity becomes dust, the Maker becomes the maligned, the Creator becomes the cursed. God comes in Christ to restore the relationship we rejected in the garden. We learn that the great gift God gives us is himself. Jesus is God's ultimate statement that he will provide a way for us to worship him..." (True Worshippers: Seeking What Matters to God). During Advent, especially, we celebrate this gift of worship.

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** is one of the most popular songs of Advent. Its timeless text is actually quite old (it is derived from a ninth century Latin chant), and its melody is of a Fifteenth-century French origin. Perhaps what makes this hymn great is the perfection of the melding of text and music. Its minor key speaks of a dark world in need of Christ. The melody’s three melismas (moving notes held out on a single syllable), in “man” of “Emmanuel,” “Is” of “Israel,” and “God,” pull out a sense of longing and desperate need. The melody rises to new heights at its climactic chorus, “Rejoice! Rejoice!” No wonder this song has stood the test of time and will continue to do so through the ages.

\* *Sussex Carol (On Christmas Night all Christians Sing)*

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring;  
on Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King’s birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad;  
then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place;  
when sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health comes in its place;  
heaven and earth with joy may sing,  
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God in highest heaven;  
peace on earth and goodwill."

Words: English Carol / Music: English Carol  
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\* **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

*O Come O Come, Emmanuel*

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

O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel;  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. [Refrain]

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death’s dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

O come Thou Wisdom from on high and order all things far and nigh.  
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

O come Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease. Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. [Refrain]

Words: Translated by Charles S. Cook / Music: Plainsong Chant  
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## CHILDREN'S LESSON

### SONG OF ILLUMINATION

#### \* *Speak O Lord*

Speak O Lord and renew our minds, help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Music and Lyrics: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend  
2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
© 1992 Heritage Music Press, A Division of The Lorenz Corporation

### SERMON LESSON

John 1:14-18

Doug Ashley

### SERMON

“Jesus Before Revelation”

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

Words and Music: Traditional

### THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC

#### \* *Angels We have Heard on High*

**Refrain:** Gloria! In excelsis Deo!  
Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

Angels, we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. [Refrain]

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, whose birth the angels sing.  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

Words: Traditional / Music: Edward Shippen Barnes  
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### \* BENEDICTION

### \* POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand as able*

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**The Call to Worship and the Benediction.** The Call to Worship and the Benediction are important traditions in the history of Christian worship. As the start and close of the service, they make an important point to us about worship: God gets the first and last word. We understand the Call to Worship as God's call to us. If we are ever to have a relationship with God, it is God who must first initiate to us. God alone can invite us and draw us in; and good news, he has! Likewise, in the Benediction, it is only by God's blessing ("benediction" = "good word" or blessing) and power are we able to go out into the world, to surrender our lives in daily worship, and to live out God's mission; which is exactly what he gives freely to his people.

# Sunday, December 23, 2018 Announcements & Information

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

4:30 p.m. Family friendly Candles & Carols

6:30 p.m. Communion, Candles & Carols

(Nursery provided for 6:30 service.)

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** Our 2018 Advent devotional booklets are available to pick up in the church foyer or in Trinity Hall. We have a few left. Also, you can click on the tab "Learn/Resources" on our website to follow along each day or the slider on the homepage.

## NEW TO LONGVIEW EPC? Go to [longviewepc.org](http://longviewepc.org) for most info.

**Prayer Ministry:** Confidential prayer requests may be made by emailing [prayerteam@epclongview.org](mailto:prayerteam@epclongview.org) or by using the cards located in the fellowship pads in your pew. Monthly prayer calendars are located in the foyer.

**Tithes and Offerings:** Boxes at each entrance. For credit/debit cards and electronically via the website—Serve/Giving.

**Sermons and bulletins:** Available on the website. You can listen to today's sermon following the service.

**Parents and kids:** Don't forget the special activity bags in the foyer just for you!

**Blankets are available** on the table by the sanctuary entrance if you or your little ones get cold during the service.

**Guest WiFi:** EPCGuest Password: Guestttt

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 25 & 26—Office Closed

December 30 at 9:30 a.m. — Worship Service, no Sunday School

January 1—Office Closed

January 6 at 9:30 a.m. — Worship Service, no Sunday School

January 9— Youth Bible Studies

January 13 at 9:30 a.m. — Communion followed  
by Potluck Lunch

January 16 at 5:15 p.m.—Kidmin: Digin!

**Financial Report to our Faith Family—The Finance Committee would like to express their appreciation of your generosity.** We are very thankful for your continued prayers, service and financial commitment. We continue to be encouraged by how God is creating a community of people committed to changing lives through His gospel. Please contact Finance Chair, Fred Irwin or Treasurer, Gordon Northcutt if you have any questions.

11/30/18	Tithes, Gifts, Income, (+)	Operating Expenses, (-)	Capital Exp (-)	Difference
Monthly (Nov)	\$42,836	\$51,095	\$0	\$ -8,259
Year to Date	\$633,083	\$713,900	\$4,450	\$ -85,266
Budget thru 11/30/18	\$654,214	\$721,403	\$5,000	\$ -72,189

Unrestricted Cash Balance \$130,998

Capital Exp: A/C Unit replaced in Sanctuary pd in June

## NURSERY :

**Dec. 23:** Infants: Carrie Salmon & Madalyn Maddox

Toddlers: Leslie Carlile & Jim Brun

**Dec. 30:** Infants: Kathie Ramey & volunteer needed

Toddlers: Jim Brun & volunteer needed

## USHERS & GREETERS:

Morning openers: Bob & Barbara Linthicum

Today's Head Usher: Rick Poland

**Dec. 23:** Bill Bagley, Bill Burlingame &

Wil and Suzi White

**December 30:** Head Usher: Buck Birdsong

Tres Bainter, Bob Linthicum, Bill Burlingame

## SAFETY TEAM:

**Dec 24:** Buck Birdsong & Brian Daugbjerg

**Dec. 30:** Buck Birdsong & Bill Burlingame

Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Worship 9:30 • Sunday Classes 10:45

## RULING ELDERS

Gena Bunn '18

Ginia Northcutt '18

Kathie Ramey '18

Michael McMahon '19

Matt Yost '19

Jim Brun '20

Kerri Daugbjerg '20

Eric Skoog '20

## STAFF

Rev. Doug Ashley — Pastor / [dashley@epclongview.org](mailto:dashley@epclongview.org)

Rev. Shelley Kral — Associate Pastor / [skral@epclongview.org](mailto:skral@epclongview.org)

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