



Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Coming together to know Christ and to make him known.

CAROLS, CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION...DECEMBER 24, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE...6:30 P.M.

Please pick up candles/glowsticks from foyer prior to worship.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Before the Marvel of this Night

Tune: MARVEL
Music by Carl Schalk

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Sussex Carol

Traditional Carol / Arranged by Neil Harmon

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 light is born! Jesus the Christ is on earth!

People: The Word has been made King!

Pastor: Will you receive him?

**People: We will receive him!
We will exalt him!
We will entrust our entire selves to him!**

All: Glory to the newborn King!

Welcome! Whether you are young or old; first time in a church or a long-time worshipper, full of questions and doubt or confidence and joy – or places in between all that - we are glad you are here!

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

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

The Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath. The Advent wreath helps us to remember Jesus' coming in terms of the biblical theme of light. When Jesus came he entered a world of darkness; full of sin, ignorance, hate and pride. His light penetrated that darkness bringing joy, peace, faith, justice and love. As Scripture tells us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) So we light the candles each week in remembrance of the coming of the Christ child until all are aflame on Christmas Eve when with the lighting of the central Christ Candle we celebrate the arrival of he who would refer to himself as "the light of the world" (John 8:12)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

* *Joy To the World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room.
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing;
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns. Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy;
Repeat the sounding joy; repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found;
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love;
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

* *Angels From the Realms of Glory (Regent Square)*

Refrain: Come and worship! Come and worship!
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth. [Refrain]

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing. Yonder shines the infant light! [Refrain]

Sages leave your contemplations. Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great Desire of nations. Ye have seen His natal star. [Refrain]

Words and Music: Henry Thomas Smart and James Montgomery
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SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

The Brelsford Family

PRAYER OF ADORATION

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

For Unto Us a Child is Born

Words adapted from Isaiah 9:6 / Music by Jean Sibelius
Arranged by Tom Fettke

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear; that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
Peace on the earth good will to men from heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still thro' the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing.
And ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo the days are hastening on by prophet seen of old.
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth; Its ancient splendors fling.
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Words and Music: Edmund Hamilton Sears and Richard Storrs Willis
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What Child is This

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud; the Babe, the Son of Mary.

What Child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping;
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? [Refrain]

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh. Come peasant king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Refrain]

Words: W. Chatterton Dix Music: GREENSLEEVES - Traditional English Melody
Words and Music: Public Domain

SERMON LESSON

John 1:18; Revelation 21:1-5

Doug Ashley

SERMON

“The God Who Was and Is and Is To Come”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

If you are a baptized Christian who actively trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation and are willing to forsake your sin, you are welcome to take Holy Communion this morning. If you are wrestling with the claims of Jesus and his place in your life, this time is still for you. Rather than coming forward to take the elements, please remain seated and contemplate taking Christ himself. The prayers that follow are supplied for your consideration.**

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that
unlike the shepherds we fail to run after your promises;
unlike the angels we fail to sing your triumph into dark places;
unlike Mary we fail to ponder deeply your work in our lives.
Free us from our sin and enter in that we may
love as we are loved;
forgive as we have been forgiven;
welcome as we have been welcomed
and serve as we have been served. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

Music for The Lord’s Supper

Gesu Bambino

Words and Music by Pietro A. Yon

There is Room for a Stranger

Words and Music by Adam Tice and Lee Dengler

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

(Continued next page)

The Prince of Peace in Christmas Communion. As part of the Communion liturgy many Christians “pass the peace” as a reminder that Jesus, the Prince of Peace became peace for us and embodies peace through us. (e.g. Col 1:20-21, Eph 4:3). At the close of Communion we turn to our neighbors, extend our hands, look the person in the eye, speak the words “The peace of Christ be with you” and receive the response, “And also with you.”

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Candlelight Carol

Words and Music by John Rutter

CANDLELIGHTING

* Silent Night

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.

Silent night. Holy night. Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth; Jesus Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night. Holy night. Wondrous star lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing, "Alleluia to our King!
Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born."

Words and Music: John Freeman Young and Joseph Mohr
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* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Please stand as able*

**Prayers from Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New York City

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We would like to thank tonight's participants:

Choir:

Sopranos: Shawn Frazier, Karen Harding, Susan Mosley
Altos: Julie Lynn Ashley, Sheri Burlingame, Lisca Van Zyl,
Diana McMahon, Barbara Rowley, Edith Certain, Gena Bunn
Tenors: Gordon Northcutt, LeGrand Northcutt
Basses: A.J. Luna, Charles Mosley, Dick Carlberg, Drew Frazier

Chimes Choir:

Shawn Frazier, Susan Mosley, Karen Harding, Ellen Luna,
Becky Birdsong, Dick Carlberg, Charles Mosley

Orchestra:

Piano - Becky Birdsong; Organ - Ellen Luna
Clarinet - James Thomas, Victoria Thomas
Trumpet - Aidan Frazier
F. Horn - Lauren Stoddard
Violin - Isabella Cowart, Josephine Cowart, Amanda Elia
Viola - Juan Lira
Cello - Jace Mankins

THIS WEEK & 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!

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
Rev. Shelley Kral — Associate Pastor / skral@epclongview.org
Jason Hubbard — Director of Youth Ministry / jhubbard@epclongview.org
Suzi White — Administrator / swhite@epclongview.org
David Luna — Interim Music Director / dluna@epclongview.org
Carrie Northcutt -- Interim Children's Dir. / childrensministry@epclongview.org

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