



*A Child is Born*

## Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

*We are a faith family walking together to know Christ and to make him known by engaging in dynamic worship, pursuing spiritual wisdom, investing in deep relationships, and affecting social renewal.*

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.....DECEMBER 3, 2017

#### GATHERING

#### GATHERING MUSIC

*Prepare!*

*Allen Pote*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Shelley Kral

Pastor: In ancient times, God's people were waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah.

**People: The Lord had promised that the day would come when he would fulfill the gracious promise he had made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**

Pastor: The gospels record how that promised Messiah came as a baby. That child grew to be a man who was fully human and yet divine—Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs!**

#### *\*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

And tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

#### *\*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

Let every 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.

*[continued next page]*

#### Welcome to Advent at Longview EPC!

It is our prayer that no matter where you may be in your spiritual journey, during your time with us this morning you will receive a taste of the expectant waiting, reflection, and hope-filled wonder that is the season of Advent.

*Hearing devices are available in the Narthex.*

*Please sign the attendance register located at the end of each pew.*

**What is Advent?** Advent, which includes the four Sundays before Christmas as well as Christmas itself, is a period of preparation for the coming of Christ. Advent, which literally means "coming", is a time for anticipation, action, and reflection. During this season we celebrate that Christ has come into our world! That Christ is coming into lives today! That Christ will come again in fulfillment of God's promise of a new world of only peace and love! So as we travel this busy Christmas season Advent invites us to take time and ask ourselves, "How are we, this very week, preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ today and tomorrow?"

**How do we prepare to receive the Lord's Supper?** We prepare first of all by knowing Jesus Christ personally as Lord and Savior. We come with an understanding faith. We should know Christ, and we should know what this table is all about. That is, we should "partake in a worthy manner." This meal involves a "participation in the blood of Christ" (I Cor 10:16). Second, by being reconciled with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Our union with Jesus Christ is both an incentive and a means to unity with others (Matthew 5:23-24). Third, by repenting of all known sin. This is not a meal for perfect people. There is only one with a perfect righteousness, and that is Jesus Christ. We are to come trusting in His righteousness, but we are to come with a renewed repentance and desire to live as his obedient disciples. Scripture says, "A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Cor 11:28). If for any reason you are not ready to take the elements, it is always okay to stay seated and to use the time to consider 'taking Christ' in a different way instead.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

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.

## MORNING PRAYER

Shelley Kral

### *What Child Is This*

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

## PROCLAIMING

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Doug Ashley

### SERMON LESSON

Isaiah 9:6-7

### SERMON

"A Child Is Born: Wonderful Counselor"

## 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.

\*\*Prayers from Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New York City

Prayer of Confession

Doug Ashley

***Lord Jesus, this Advent season makes us childlike. Deliver us from the urge to compete with others for place or prestige or position. Deliver us from pose and pretense. Enable us to simply receive and enjoy.***

***Forgive us for thinking of ourselves. Help us to forget ourselves and find our true peace in beholding you. As we approach your table we humbly ask you to grant our prayer. Lay upon us your easy yoke of self-forgetfulness that through it we may find rest. Amen.***

(Based on a prayer by A.W. Tozer)

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

Music for The Lord's Supper

*Epiphany Song*

*Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Shelley Kral

***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.***

\*Passing of the Peace

*Let Us Be Known By Our Love*

Let us be known by our love in every word in every deed honor the Son

Let our light shine in every eye let us be known by our love

For the glory of the Father for the glory of the Son

For the glory of the Spirit let us be known by our love (joy) (peace)

Let us be known by our joy in every home in every heart sing to the Lord

Let our life show goodness and hope let us be known by our joy

Let us be known by our peace in every town in every tribe Jesus is king

Let us go forth heal and restore let us be known by our peace

*Let Us Be Known By Our Love* by Matt Armstrong, 2015 Wordspring Music; Used by permission CCLI #11081661.

**SENDING**

**THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC**

Beau Sullivan

*\*Let Us Be Known By Our Love*

For the glory of the Father for the glory of the Son

For the glory of the Spirit let us be known by our love

**\*BENEDICTION**

Doug Ashley

**\*POSTLUDE**

*\*Please stand as able*

**MESSIAH SING DECEMBER 3:** First United Methodist Church (400 N. Fredonia St.) will be hosting a “Messiah Sing” for the Longview community on Sunday, December 3 at 7 p.m. If you would like to sing in this choral opportunity, rehearsal will be that day from 5-6 p.m. Members of our Chancel Choir will be participating, and you are encouraged to attend. Contact Tim Konvalin for more information.

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE:** Friday morning, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 9-9:45 a.m., there will be a simple Service of Remembrance in the sanctuary to honor the lives of those we have lost as we care for those grieving in our church family. If you would like the name of your loved one read, please e-mail [ajulielynn@gmail.com](mailto:ajulielynn@gmail.com) or call Julie Lynn at 720-261-3800 with the name before December 1.

**“CARDS AND CAROLS” EVENT SATURDAY, DEC. 9 AT 9 A.M.:** Do you desire to spread joy? Join your EPC family December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am in Trinity Hall to create small floral arrangements and cards that can then be delivered with caroling in small groups to individuals in residential care. We hope to reach those who may not receive a visitor throughout the holiday season.

**BUCKNER FAMILY SPONSORSHIPS:** We need to know who is sponsoring the family of envelope #10. Gifts should be brought to the church office by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 7.

*Volunteers are needed for the following:*

- \* to help sort and wrap gifts at the Family Hope Center at any of these times (12/5, 12/7, 12/12 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.)
- \* to help distribute gifts at Buckner December 14 & 15 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.– 5 p.m.

*Volunteers are also needed at Maude Cobb Convention Center on December 13 for an hour or all day to:*

- \* help set up and decorate for the party from 1-4 p.m
- \* serve at the Buckner Christmas party from 5-8:30 p.m.

*Please contact Annette or Suzi at our church office (903-234-0032 or [frontoffice@epclongview.org](mailto:frontoffice@epclongview.org)) to sign up for any of the above opportunities to help.*

**CALLING ALL CHILDREN:** Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year so our 9:30 worship service will be our Family Service. As is our custom, we will need lots of sheep, angels, and wise men to be a part of the nativity pageant. *Rehearsals will be Wed., 12/6 (5:15-6:15); Wed., 12/13 (5:15-6:15); Sun., 12/17 (5:15-6:15); Wed., 12/20 (5:15-6:15); Sun., 12/24 (8:45 a.m.).* We will also need a few parents to help on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ENGAGE IN THE ADVENT SPIRIT!** It can be difficult to slow down and see the Lord at work at this very busy time of year. To help you carve out spiritual space in the midst of all that needs to be done, we are pleased to offer to families of all ages and stages “His Name Shall Be Called: An Advent Devotional.” Located in the foyer, this prayer booklet includes 24 brief daily devotions beginning with the introduction “What’s In A Name?” for December 1. *We encourage all of our faith family to avail themselves of this prayer booklet created in house especially for us.*

#### **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:**

**Sunday, December 3** — Infants: Tammy Moyes & Victoria; Toddlers: Cindy Brelsford & Sarah  
**Sunday, December 10** — Infants: Chad & Liz Johnson; Toddlers: Carrie Salmon & Leslie Carlile

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Dec. 3—1st Sunday Communion  
Sunday School  
No Potluck Lunch  
7 PM—Messiah Sing at First United Methodist Church  
Dec. 8—Service of Remembrance at 9 AM  
Dec. 9—Cards & Carols at 9 AM followed by caroling at 10:30  
Youth party following the caroling



**Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church**    **Worship 9:30 • Sunday School 10:45**

Rev. Doug Ashley — Lead Pastor / [dashley@epclongview.org](mailto:dashley@epclongview.org)  
Rev. Shelley Kral — Associate Pastor / [skral@epclongview.org](mailto:skral@epclongview.org)  
Rev. Beau Sullivan — Assistant Pastor / [bsullivan@epclongview.org](mailto:bsullivan@epclongview.org)  
Tim Konvalin — Director of Music Ministry / [tkonvalin@epclongview.org](mailto:tkonvalin@epclongview.org)  
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Emily Holloway — Director of Children’s Ministry / [eholloway@epclongview.org](mailto:eholloway@epclongview.org)  
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