



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT.....DECEMBER 10, 2017

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Watchman!

Robin Mark

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beau Sullivan

Pastor: The Scriptures record how even in the Garden of Eden, God had a plan to redeem his fallen people through the coming of the Christ.

People: **Then came the voice from one in the desert, saying: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"**

Pastor: As we come closer to Christmas, our days are filled with preparations. Let us also prepare our hearts to celebrate again the coming of the Savior.

People: **Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has redeemed his people!**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplation,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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.

Why an Advent Wreath? This worship element 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 we celebrate the arrival of he who would refer to himself as "the light of the world" (John 8:12)

How are tithes and offerings received at Longview EPC? How are we modeling monetary giving for our children?

In congruence with scriptures such as 2 Kings 12:9 and Matthew 12:41 where tithes and offerings were collected in boxes as people came and went from the temple, Longview EPC collects tithes and offerings through the wooden boxes found at all the entrances to the church sanctuary. Not taking an offering during the worship service enables visitors exploring the Christian faith to be present at worship without feeling obligated to contribute monetarily. Also, it reminds believers that giving is an extension of worship that may occur any day of the week and through a variety of means. Parents, we encourage you to discuss the importance of monetary giving with your children and provide them with repeated opportunities to either place your family offering in one of the boxes, or join you at the computer if you use the electronic giving option.

**O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Beau Sullivan

Christmas Offering

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from Heaven
Falling on their knees they bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You I bring an offering to You

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy Lord I come

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
(Oh Lord I bring an offering to You)

Paul Baloche. 2003 Integrity's Hosanna Music! Used by permission CCLI #11081661

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S LESSON

Jenny Hubbard

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.

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON LESSON

Isaiah 9:6-7

Shelley Kral

SERMON

“A Child Is Born: Mighty God”

Come and Stand Amazed You People

SENDING

THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC

Doug Ashley

**Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened the heavenly door, and man is blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*BENEDICTION

Shelley Kral

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand as able*

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!” The tune to this popular Advent hymn dates back to at least 1400. The lyrics, written by Henrich Seuse in 1328, were originally a mash up of Latin and German titled “In Dulci Jubilo.” Seuse states he was instructed in a vision to compose a song about baby Jesus and, fortunately for the Church, this is what he created! Translated into English by John Neale in 1853 may the last lines ring in your ears throughout the Christmas season and beyond. *Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

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.*

BUCKNER FAMILY SPONSORSHIPS:

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- * to help sort and wrap gifts at the Family Hope Center on 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) to sign up for any of the above opportunities to help.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE 9:30 AM SERVICE:

- Wednesday, Dec. 13: 5:15-6:15 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 17: 5:15-6:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 20: 5:15-6:15 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 24: 8:45 a.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Christian Thought (studying Andy Crouch’s “Strong and Weak” before studying Calvin) meets in Trinity Hall room 106 and is led by Larry Frazier.

Digging Deeper (a study of the book of John) meets in the Sanctuary and is taught by Beau Sullivan.

Faith in Life (study of Revelation) meets in Trinity Hall room 107 and is taught by Shelley Kral.

Grace-Based Parenting (applying grace to parenting children into a life of freedom in Christ) meets in Trinity Hall room 104 and is led by Doug and Julie Lynn Ashley.

The Gospel Project (“Exile and Return” - a Bible survey course) meets in the Carlton room in the sanctuary building and is taught by Leonard Wiley.

NEW TO LONGVIEW EPC? Please check the foyer for an EPC mug and brochure for you!

Coffee, cookies, and fellowship are available in Trinity Hall each Sunday morning.

Prayer Ministry: Confidential prayer requests may be made by emailing prayerteam@epclongview.org or by using the cards located in the attendance registers. Current monthly prayer calendars are located in the foyer.

Tithes and Offerings are received through the wooden boxes found at each entrance to the sanctuary, or checks mailed to the office, and electronically via the website. The website also offers a credit/debit card option.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:

Sunday, December 10 — Infants: Chad & Liz Johnson; Toddlers: Carrie Salmon & Leslie Carlile

Sunday, December 17 — Infants: Tammy Kathie Ramey & Mary White; Toddlers: Emily & Rob Holloway

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24:

- * Family Service 9:30 a.m.
No Sunday School
- * Carols, Candlelight, & Communion 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25: Church Offices closed through Tuesday, 12/26

NEW YEARS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31: Worship at 9:30 a.m. No other activities.

NEW YEAR’S DAY, MONDAY, JANUARY 1: Church Offices closed through Tuesday, 1/2/18

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7: Worship at 9:30 a.m. with communion; potluck lunch following worship



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

Rev. Doug Ashley — Lead Pastor / dashley@epclongview.org

Rev. Shelley Kral — Associate Pastor / skral@epclongview.org

Rev. Beau Sullivan — Assistant Pastor / bsullivan@epclongview.org

Tim Konvalin — Director of Music Ministry / tkonvalin@epclongview.org

Jason Hubbard — Director of Youth Ministry / jhubbard@epclongview.org

Emily Holloway — Director of Children’s Ministry / eholloway@epclongview.org

Suzi White — Administrator / swhite@epclongview.org

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