



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.

DECEMBER 31, 2017

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Light of Light

Benjamin Schmolck

Light of light, enlighten me, now anew the day is dawning;
Sun of grace, the shadows flee; brighten thou my Sabbath morning;
With thy joyous sunshine blest, happy is my day of rest.

Fount of all our joy and peace, to thy living waters lead me;
Thou from earth my soul release, and with grace and mercy feed me;
Bless thy Word, that it may prove rich in fruits that thou dost love.

Let me with my heart today, "Holy, holy, holy" singing,
Rapt awhile from earth away, all my soul to thee up-springing,
Have a foretaste inly giv'n how they worship thee in heav'n.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Doug Ashley

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: The maker of heaven and earth!

Leader: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever!

**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee!*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

**In Christ Alone*

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This Gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save,
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid: here in the death of Christ I live.

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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. Welcome to all of you today!

Hearing devices are available in the Narthex.

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

The "Gathering" portion of our time together reminds us that we are called together to listen to God and respond in faith and prayer. With joyous and humble expectation, grateful for God's giving of himself, we come to worship our Creator, Savior and Sustainer.

The "Proclaiming" portion stands at the center of worship. In the reading and preaching of God's Word we are privileged to receive from the Holy Spirit comfort, challenge, correction and inspiration to deepen our faith and life.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

In Christ Alone by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. Copyright 2001 Thankyou Music Used by permission CCLI #11081661

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive me Lord, for this week I have fallen to the temptation to see suffering, rather than sin, as my greatest problem. Therefore, when you called me to repent I became resentful. Like a child throwing a tantrum, my natural heart declared, "You have been uncooperative in removing my suffering, so why should I cooperate in giving you worship?"

In your mercy, forgive me.

In your mercy, restore me.

In your mercy, change me.

(Please take a moment for silent, private confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

Pastor: Friends, believe the good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with His blood our life hath bought.

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S LESSON

Emily Holloway

SONG OF INVOCATION

**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.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

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So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthroned Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

SERMON LESSON

John 1:1-18

Beau Sullivan

SERMON

“The Light Has Come”

Star in the East

STAR IN THE EAST, Sacred Harp, 1835
Arrangement by David Ashley White

Chancel Choir

Sean Glaze, Violin

LeGrand Northcutt, Viola

Sam Pistone, Cello

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Doug Ashley

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SENDING

THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC

**All To Us*

Precious cornerstone sure foundation, you are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You Jesus; we believe You're all to us (Repeat)

Let the glory of Your name, be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God, be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ, be the measure of our lives.
We believe You're all to us. (Repeat)

Only Son of God sent from heaven; hope and mercy at the cross.
You are ev'rything; you're the promise Jesus. You are all to us.

You're all to us, you're all to us, you're all to us; yes you are.
You're all to us, you're all to us, you're all to us; you are.

When this passing world is over, we will see You face to face.
And forever we will worship Jesus;
You are all to us, Jesus, you are all to us.

All to Us by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Matt Maher, Matt Redman; 2010 Said And Done Music. Used by permission CCLI License # 1108166

*BENEDICTION

Beau Sullivan

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand as able*

The “Sending” portion reminds us that worship is to bear fruit in our lives. God desires not simply a hearing, but a response. Through these final acts we remember that worship doesn't end when we leave this building, but continues as we respond with gratitude in all we say and do throughout the week

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The church offices will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, January 1 and 2.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 – 1st Sunday: Worship with the Lord's Supper. Potluck lunch in Trinity Hall following worship. The church will provide the main dish—you provide the sides and a few desserts.

POINSETTIAS IN CHURCH: If you would like to have any of the poinsettias in the church building, please take one as you leave today.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14

Please join one of our Adult Classes!

Christian Thought led by Larry Frazier is considering writings by Andy Crouch and John Calvin. Meets in Trinity Hall 106

Digging Deeper taught by Beau Sullivan is studying the Gospel of John. Meets in the Sanctuary

Faith in Life led by Shelley Kral and Daniel Bond is reviewing "12 Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy: Relief from False Assumptions" by Drs Cloud & Townsend. Meets in Trinity Hall 107

The Gospel Project led by Leonard Wiley continues this Bible survey course. Meets in Carlton room in sanctuary building

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 31 — Infants: Mary Goll & Allison & Makenzie; Toddlers: Glenda Bays

Sunday, January 7 — Infants: Terrye Hudson & Jenny Hubbard; Toddlers: Pat & Denise Frederick

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 31—Worship at 9:30 a.m.; no other activities

Jan. 1-2—Church offices closed

Jan 7—Worship at 9:30 a.m. with Celebration of the Lord's Supper; potluck lunch following

Jan. 14—Sunday School and Youth Fellowship resume

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

3800 Judson Road
Longview, TX 75605

info@epclongview.org
longviewepc.org
Phone: 903-234-0032

Guest Wi-Fi: EPCL2
Password: **Guestttt**
Facebook: Longview EPC