ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

– Luke 2:10–11

December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:40 a.m.

God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Cantilena on MENDELSSOHN Biery
Ms. Lisa Barry, organ

Welcome

Call to Worship

* Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

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; Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above. Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father late in flesh appearing.

Choral Praise Glory to God (from *Messiah*)

Handel

Mrs. Mary Margaret Culpepper, solo Stephens Valley Church Choir and Orchestra

And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Goodwill toward men."

God Calls Us to Repent and Believe

Old Testament Lesson

Number 6:22-27

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

General Prayer of Confession

Father, we confess that we are sinners. You offer us peace, but inside we are restless. You offer us Your smile, but our sin often hides it. You offer us Your grace, but we are often ungrateful. Grant us forgiveness. Give us thankful hearts ready to receive Your gospel that we may taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven. For we ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Prayer of Intercession

Assurance of Forgiveness Pastor Jim Bachmann

* Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

God Calls Us to Give and Serve

God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory Whence is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing Wilberg Stephens Valley Church Choir and Orchestra

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away? Never the like did come ablowing, shepherds, from flow'ry fields in May. What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes? Never so bright, the daystar waking, started to climb the morning skies! Bethlehem! there, in manger lying, find your Redeemer, haste away. Run ye, with eager footsteps hieing! Worship the Savior born today.

God Declares His Word to Us

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

Sermon Christmas Peace Pastor Heath Cross

Prayer of Supplication

God Invites Us to the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread All Is Well Smith, Kirkpatrick
Stephens Valley Church Orchestra

Sharing the Cup

God Dismisses His Servants in Peace

* Hymn Good Christian Men, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Handel

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today. Earth and heav'n before Him bow and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door and man is blessed forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: 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

* Choral Response Hallelujah Chorus (from *Messiah*)

Stephens Valley Church Choir and Orchestra

* congregation standing

Stephens Valley Church Orchestra

Violin: David Davidson, David Angell, Conni Ellisor, Karen Winkelmann, Maria Manning Viola: Monisa Angell, Elizabeth Lamb Cello: Anthony LaMarchina, Sari Reist String Bass: Craig Nelson Trumpet: Joel Treybig, Alec Blazek Timpani: Sam Bacco

^{*} Prayer of Adoration

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Greetings: Welcome to our time of worship on this third Sunday in Advent. Please register your attendance at one of the entrances as you arrive or depart. Remember to share our worship service by clicking the "share" icon below the YouTube video of our service. This is an easy and effective way to spread the good news and expand our ministry.

<u>Mask Required Room:</u> The elders have designated the Solid Rock Café as a room where masks must be worn during the worship service. Masks are strongly recommended but not required in the Fellowship Hall and Rutherford Room.

Communion: Please note that a gluten-free option for communion is available at both entrances to the fellowship hall.

IN MEMORIAM

Alex Thomas Couch

March 26, 1931—December 10, 2020

IN MEMORIAM

John Arch Warren

December 2, 1933—December 16, 2020

<u>Officer Elections:</u> All officer candidates were elected last Sunday during the congregational and corporation meetings. New deacons are: Scott Parnell, Jerry Raymer, and Mark Thomas. New elders are Dave Jones and Mike Miller. New Council members are Cullen Smith and Tom Smith.



Christmas Eve: Bring your friends and family to our Christmas Eve family candlelight service from 4:30–5:15 p.m. There will not be a nursery but your children are welcome to join us as we worship our newborn King.

End-of-the-Year Stock Gifts: The church has a licensed broker enabling us to accept gifts of stock. The church's policy is to receive the stock, immediately sell it, and add the proceeds to the church's bank account. If you wish to make a stock gift, please have your broker contact Joe D. Comer, Pinnacle Bank, 615-773-6618, or joe.comer@pnfp.com.

Our Daily Bread: Devotional booklets for January through March are available in the lobby. They are free, postage paid and in large print!

SVC Care: DivorceCare meets on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. GriefShare meets on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. with the addition of a new class on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. All classes take place via Zoom. For more information, please contact Jan Evett or Vernon Prevatt.

Volunteers Needed: Communion Preparation Committee 2021. If interested, please contact Roy Pearson at royfpearson@ajzpearson.com.

- THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR -

Today, 9:00 a.m. Officers' Prayer Time
Today, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

Today, 10:40 a.m. Worship service

Today, 5:00 p.m. DivorceCare (online via Zoom)

Today, 5:00 p.m. SVC Youth Christmas Party (Youth Room)

Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. Sweet Half Hour of Prayer (St. Paul Chapel, first floor)

Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. GriefShare (online via Zoom)

Thursday Church office closed Thursday, 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service

Financial Report

December 13 General Fund Offering	\$65,989
Weekly Offering needed	\$35,164
YTD deficit through November 30	\$144,247
Offering needed by December 31	\$233,687
December 13 Building Fund received	\$13,404
December Building Fund received	\$16,924

CHURCH STAFF

S. James Bachmann Jr., Senior Pastor jimb@stephensvalleychurch.com

Heath Cross, Assistant Pastor heathc@stephensvalleychurch.com

David German, Minister of Music davidg@stephensvalleychurch.com

John Avery, Church Administrator (volunteer) johna@stephensvalleychurch.com

Angie Thomas, Administrative Assistant angiet@stephensvalleychurch.com

Amber Cross, Director of Children's Ministry (part-time) amberc@stephensvalleychurch.com

Anita Murphy, Director of Preschool Ministry (part-time) anitam@stephensvalleychurch.com

Dr. David Lawrence, Scholar-in-Residence (part-time) davidl5012@icloud.com

Stephens Valley Church (SVC) cleans regularly with products designed specifically to neutralize COVID-19, including weekly cleaning of all public spaces used during worship, and more frequent cleaning of common areas used intermittently during the week. In addition, SVC conducts temperature checks upon entry, provides hand sanitizer and masks, and encourages social distancing, handwashing, and other means of personal protection. We have also restructured our communion, offering, and attendance pad process to avoid person to person handling. Davidson County lists an exception to its mandatory mask requirements when attending a worship service by referring to Governor Lee's voluntary guidelines. Based on the Governor's recommendation to wear a face covering, we recommend wearing a mask as well, but this is a recommendation for voluntary compliance, which is a decision to be made by each individual. Despite these efforts, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place or meeting where people are present as well as other inherent risks and dangers associated with public meetings. By your presence at SVC, you knowingly and voluntarily, accept, and assume responsibility for, each of these risks and dangers, including but not limited to COVID-19, and all other risks and dangers that could arise out of, or occur during, your use of the facilities at Stephens Valley Church.







December 20, 2020



Biblical, Reformed, Independent

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