

After four weeks of marking time by lighting advent candles, tonight we light the center candle representing the person of Christ.

*Worshippers may stand as able.

Leader: Plain text
People: Bold text

The confession and pardon are based on prayers by Thom Shuman.

We pour water into the Baptismal bowl as a reminder that we are washed clean of all our sins.

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2019

9:00 PM

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLED TOGETHER

PRELUDE "Joy to the World and Psalm 19" Marcello/McKechnie
Sharon Curnutte, piano

*INTROIT "Joy to the World" No. 134 v. 1
**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature.**

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light this candle as a sign of the light of Christ, present in our midst.

The shepherds said, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see what has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went, with haste, and found the baby lying in a manger.

Let us respond to the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

*HYMN NO. 133 "O Come All Ye Faithful" *Adeste Fidelis*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This was going to be the year, God of silent nights, when we were going to give away more than we spent, but we didn't. This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others, but we filled our calendars with meetings and our days with errands. This was going to be the Christmas when we wrote personal letters to friends and family, but we spent too much energy filling out our to-do lists. This was going to be a truly holy season, but it just got too harried and hurried.

Forgive us, Love Giver, and draw us closer to the Baby born not into wealth and power, but into poverty and weakness; to the One who loves unconditionally and welcomes all; to the Child who gathers other children to him, to bless them and serve them; to the One who drew near to us, so we might be drawn to your heart – Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord.
(silent prayers of confession) And all God's people say, **Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life;
into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light;
into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift – a baby who brings joy and peace to us in this moment of forgiveness and in all the days to come. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you!"

*SONG OF PRAISE Gloria, in excelsis Deo! No. 113, refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

TO RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" H. Helvey

Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me cradle the Child divine; God reward thee and all that's thine in Paradise, so prays the mother Mary. Gladly, dear one, lady mine, help I cradle this Child of thine; God's own light on us both shall shine in Paradise, so prays the mother Mary. He came among us at Christmastide in Bethlehem; men shall bring Him from far and wide Love's diadem. Jesus, lo He comes, and loves, and saves and frees us! Peace to all that have good will! God, who heaven and earth doth fill, comes to turn us away from ill, and lies so still within the crib of Mary.

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7, 15-20

MEDITATION "Responding to the birth" Dr. Todd Wright

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

SPECIAL MUSIC "Judah's Land" Appalachians Carol, arranged by David Johnson, 1968

Judah's Land
To thee with joy I sing, sweet child that heav'n did bring,
Now Judah's land shall ring with thy praises.
Gentle Stranger, in that manger,
In Judah's land we find thee, Infant Savior.
I greet thee, Prince of Peace: from sin give thy release!
Nor shall my tongue e'er cease from thy praises.
Gentle Stranger, in that manger,
In Judah's land we find thee, Infant Savior.
Thy crib can scarce contain Thy love, our precious gain;
May hymns new heights attain with thy praises.
Now twilight quietly comes: the Baby lies asleep;
Play softly, flute and drums, to his praises.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles Creed pg. 35

*HYMN NO. 145 "What Child Is This?" *Greensleeves*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY "While the Child Sleeps" G. Martin

*DOXOLOGY **In the Bleak Midwinter No. 144, v. 4**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: Give my heart**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (see insert)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER



If you would like to give flowers to celebrate a special day or person, please contact Leslie Breinar.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments, after worship.



STAFF

- Rev. Dr. Todd Wright
Pastor
- Rev. Dr. Amy Parker
Minister of Education and the Arts
- Carolyn Perrine
Organist
- Leslie Breinar
Secretary
- Dionne Canterbury
Children's Choir Dir.
- Sharon Curnutte
Choir Director Emeritus

SESSION

Class of 2019
Cindy Hanna
Noah Lawson
Angie Price
Jim Smith
Chuck Stump

Class of 2020
Jack Grimm
Kathy Kruk
Peggy Palmer
Patty Skaff

Class of 2021
Heather Barry
Greg Rader
Sarah Stump
Barbara Tabaretti

Clerk of Session
Rose Ann Walker

TRUSTEES
Don Parker '19
Richard Callard '20
John France '21

TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES

CANDLE LIGHTING

*HYMN NO. 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night" *Stille Nacht*

**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! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**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.**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE "Once In Royal David's City" L. Smith

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Dr. Todd Wright, *preacher*; Rev. Dr. Amy Parker; Carolyn Perrine, *organist*; Sharon Curnutte, *pianist*

COMMUNION SERVERS: Sarah Stump, Patty Skaff, Angela Price, Greg Rader, Patti Salisbury, Rose Ann Walker, Vicki Cunningham, Heather Barry, Chuck Stump,

FLOWERS: Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God!

THIS WEEK

- + **Wednesday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**
- + **Thursday, December 26 – OFFICE CLOSED**
- + **Friday, December 27 - 7 PM – NA Meeting**

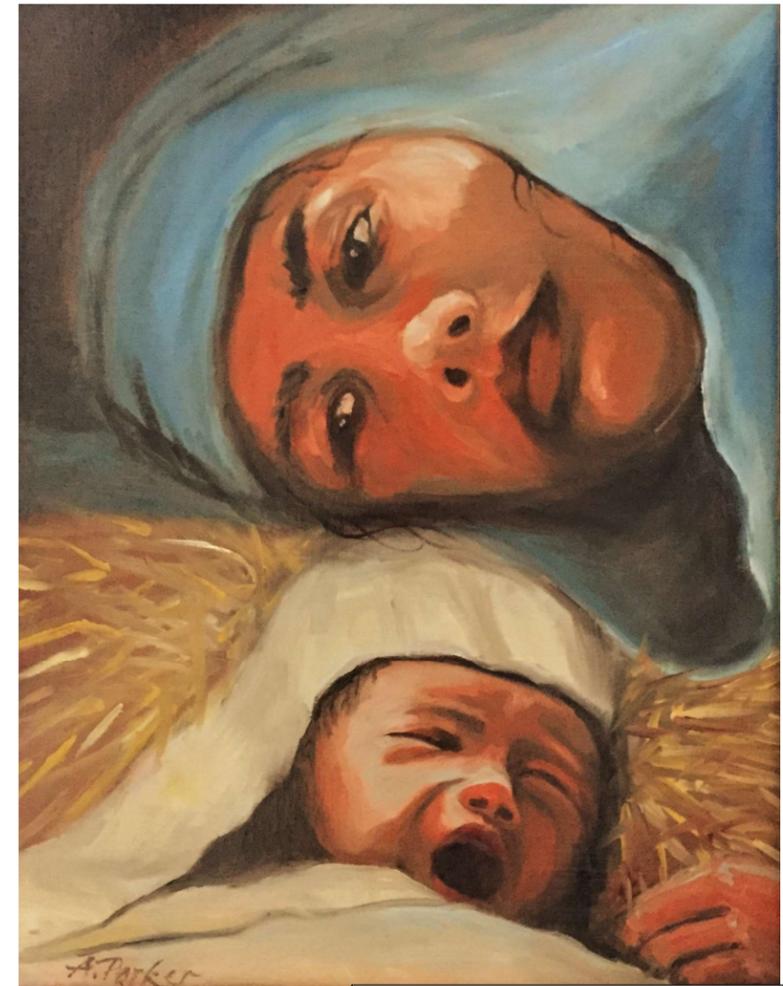
NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

- + **11:00 AM – Worship**
- + **12:00 PM – Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall** (Provided by the Fellowship Committee)

Village Chapel Presbyterian Church

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Charleston, WV 25304-1532
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www.vcpresby.org

**CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2019**



A Child Is Born by Amy Parker

Our sanctuary is equipped with hearing assist devices. Please see one of the ushers to borrow one during the service.

This bulletin is printed on paper that contains at least 10% recycled fiber. A receptacle for recycling paper is located at the back of the sanctuary.

Please remember to silence your cell phones.

"Village Chapel Presbyterian Church is a congregation of God's people, a lively community of faith, striving to serve God according to God's ever evolving plan; passionately seeking opportunities to reflect God's love in our everyday lives through service, humility, self-examination and reflection, study and prayer. We are called to be generous and wise stewards of our God given gifts, talents, money and earthly resources, both as individuals and as the Body of Christ. Our mission, simply stated is that we are called to love, and to serve, and to be beacons of Christ's endless love and forgiveness, spreading God's eternal light to all people."