

Our Service of Worship for July 25, 2021
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Cincinnati, OH

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”—arr. Sandra Eithun
Chancel Bells, Heather MacPhail, Director

During the Prelude, we invite you to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

** Hymn: “*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*” *

A Time of Confession

Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Readings: *John 1:1-18* *

Sermon: “*Christmas in July?*”

Special Music: “What Child Is This?”
Noelle Scheper and Kristi Reed, sopranos and Chancel Bells

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism—Reese Mae and Quinn Marie Bennison
Mallory and Jeremy Bennison, parents

A Time of Offering

** Sing Along: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* *
Silent Night *
Angels We Have Heard on High *

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

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.

** Hymn: “*Joy to the World*” *

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “The First Noel”—arr. Diane Bish
Heather MacPhail, organ

* The words to the hymns and readings are included with the order of worship.

** Where indicated, please stand if you are able

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi
Pastor

Heather MacPhail
Organist/Music Director

Marc Baverman
Lay Worship Leader

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone
By thine own sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
"Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Silent Night

1. 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
2. Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.



Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Joy to The World

1. Amazing Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. 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.
3. 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.



Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18—The Word Became Flesh



¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Moment for Meditation—Is There a Santa Claus?

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's *Sun*, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial. Here is an excerpt from that letter:

DEAR EDITOR: My name is Virginia. I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in *The Sun* it's so." Please tell me the truth—is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.





CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



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| CARDS | SLEIGH | GIVING | NOEL |
| CELEBRATE | STOCKING | GREETINGS | NORTH POLE |
| CHIMNEY | TREE | HOLIDAY | REINDEER |
| CHRISTMAS | WREATH | JOLLY | |

