

First Christian Church, Chehalis

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Advent – message of hope

December 2, 2018

Order of service:

Opening prayer / scripture_ – John Johnstone

Go Tell It On The Mountain, hymn #107 – all verses

Prayer – John Johnstone

The First Noel, hymn #94, verses 1,2,6

O Little Town Of Bethlehem, hymn #96 – all verses

NOTE: the origin of this song is explained on the following page.

Sacrament of Communion – John Johnstone

Offering Thought and Prayer – Beverly Simpson

MESSAGE: “Advent – Message of Hope...”

Joys Are Flowing Like A River, hymn #188 – verses 1,5

Closing prayer – John Johnstone

Food for Thought:

Count your blessing...not your problems...

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem” - The History

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) wrote this beloved Christmas hymn for the Sunday school children at his Philadelphia parish, Holy Trinity Church, following a pilgrimage to Bethlehem in 1865, according to British hymnologist J. R. Watson. The hymn was printed on an informal leaflet in December 1868 and then appeared in *The Sunday School Hymnal* in 1871.

In the United States, the hymn is generally sung to its original tune, ST. LOUIS by Louis H. Redner (1931-1908), a wealthy real estate broker who served as a church organist for his avocation. *UM Hymnal* editor Carlton Young notes that Redner “increased Sunday school attendance at Holy Trinity Episcopal, where Phillips Brooks was rector, from thirty-six to over one thousand during his nineteen years as superintendent.”

According to the story, Brooks traveled on horseback between Jerusalem and Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

“Before dark we rode out of town to the field where they say the shepherds saw the star. It is a fenced piece of ground with a cave in it, in which, strangely enough, they put the shepherds. . . . Somewhere in those fields we rode through, the shepherds must have been. As we passed, the shepherds were still ‘keeping watch over their flocks,’ or leading them home to fold.”

Brooks participated in the Christmas Eve service, writes hymnologist Albert Bailey, “conducted in . . . Constantine’s ancient basilica (326 A.D.) built over the traditional site of the Nativity, a cave. The service lasted from 10 P.M. to 3 A.M.!” This sequence of events provided the backdrop for Brooks’ children’s hymn.

Praises

Ann Hankins sister, Mary Linker, had a stroke but is doing well. Please keep her in your prayers. Ann will keep us informed of her progress.

Prayers

Pat’s daughter Ann will be on Chemo for an extended period of time and the family would truly appreciate our continued prayers.

Continued prayer for Cindy Rakoz as she winds down with treatment is greatly appreciated.

Adult Bible Studies

- Sunday morning adult Sunday School in the library at 10:00am
- Sonshine Seekers Sunday School in their classroom at 10:00am
- Wednesday Bible Study - 2:00 – 3:00pm - "The Book of Acts"

Outreach Ministry

Christian Women's Fellowship meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon for a potluck and an outreach project.

Shoebox Ministry

This ministry is part of the Samaritan's Purse International Relief Effort.

Franklin Graham – President; Samaritanspurse.org.

CONGREGATION HAPPENINGS

BOARD MEETING TODAY, FOLLOWING

SERVICE

Sonshine Seekers Potluck is tomorrow from 5-7pm.

We will be putting up the "gifts of encouragement" bags soon.

It's time to honor someone by bringing a Poinsetta for the sanctuary!

CWF Project:

We are collecting items for our Lewis County Animal Shelter. Items needed at this time are: wood pellets (used for litter and found at stores like Tractor Supply, The Farm Store), cost is about \$4.00 a bag; canned kitten food (pate' style); dry kitten food; 45 gallon size trash bags; kitten toys; always need kennel blankets. Please help us help them.

We are also focusing our efforts on the Gospel Mission. Warm clothing, gloves, hats, scarves, hand warmers and rain gear are greatly appreciated.

We will be filling Xmas mugs for our friends at the nursing home again on the 19th of December and delivering them on December 20th. If you would like to help, please let us know!