



# Emperors, Shepherds, You & Me:

## The Strange Cast

Luke 2:1-20

(A Strange Way to Save the World #4)

Christmas helps us understand who we are—people with Holy Authority & Sacred Responsibility made for Divine Love.

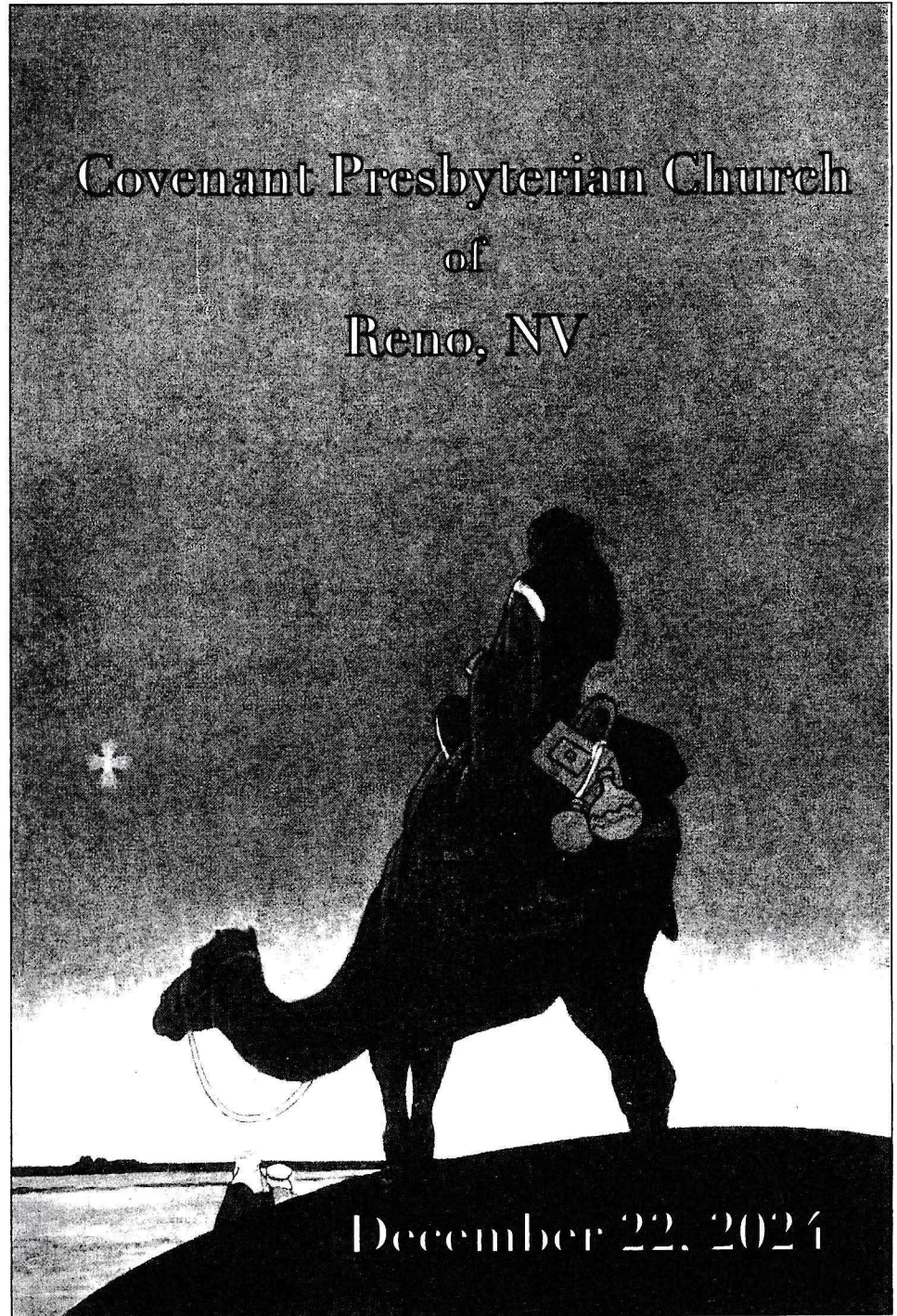
Notes:

### A Strange Way to Save the World

### Advent 2024

Dec. 1 -	<i>Strange War to Wage</i>	Gen. 3:14-15; Rev. 12:1-12
Dec. 8 -	<i>Strange Place for a King</i>	Micah 5:1-5
Dec. 15 -	<i>Strange Time for The Fullness</i>	Gal. 3:23-4:7
<b>Dec. 22 -</b>	<b><i>Strange Cast for the Play</i></b>	<b>Luke 2:1-20</b>
Dec. 24 -	<i>Strange Star of the Show</i>	Matthew 12:1-12

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
of  
Reno, NV



December 22, 2024

# Service for The Fourth Sunday in Advent

## December 22, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day.  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play  
To call my true love to my dance!  
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love!  
This have I done for my true love!*  
- Old English Carol

### We Gather as God's People

**Prelude** Christmas Brass

**Greetings and Church Family News** Pastor Jay

**Choral Introit** Covenant Choir & Christmas Brass  
"Rejoice!" – arr. Fettke

**Candle Lighting for the Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
The Rowe/Luevano Family

**Leader:** Along with the Prophecy Candle, the Bethlehem Candle and the Angels' Candle which we have lit the last three weeks, today we are also lighting the Shepherds' Candle. It reminds us of the shining excitement felt by those humble shepherds when they heard and believed the Good News about the newborn King.

**People:** *Good News is hard to keep quiet. Born to us! A Savior who is Christ the lord! Immanuel! God is with us! Joy to the world!... When we truly hear it and believe it, Good News is hard to keep quiet.*

**Leader:** When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. (Luke 2:17-18)

**People:** *Good News is hard to keep quiet. Joy to the world!*

**Leader:** The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (Luke 2:20)

**People:** *Joy to the world! Good News is hard to keep quiet.*

### We Sing Praise to Jesus Christ Who Gives Us Holy Authority

**\*Songs of Praise** Samuel Dueñas & the CPC Praise Band  
"Joy to the World" (#195)  
"The First Noel" [CCLI License #246069]

**Children's Prayer** Katie Guerrero  
(Children preschool to early grade school excused to Children's Church)

**Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon & Gloria Patri**

**Reception of Tithes & Offerings**

**Offertory** Christmas Brass

**\*Doxology (#731) & Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Anthem** CPC Choir & Christmas Brass  
"Glory to God in the Highest" - Hayes

### God's Word Tells Us Who We Are

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2:1-20 (p.857) Justin Luevano

**Message** *Emperors, Shepherds, You & Me: The Strange Cast* Pastor Jay  
(A Strange Way to Save the World #4)

### We Go Forth in the Divine Love for which We Are Made

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn** *Once in Royal David's City* #225

**\*Charge & Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

\* indicates to stand if you are able

Thanks to Our Special Christmas Brass Ensemble Today:  
Paul Lenz & Jef Derderian – trumpets; John Lenz – horn;  
Jim Albrecht – trombone & Russ Dickman – tuba

Bulletin Cover Art – "Magi and Shepherds" by Zachary Rowe