

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:30-1:30

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

“Moving Forward United in Faith”

“Committed to Christ, United by Love. We are about God, Christ, the Word, and the Future. No matter who you are or where you are on Life’s journey, you are welcome here. We are Bethany United Church of Christ.”

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 29, 2020

10:45 AM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of Worship. May this be a time of blessing for you. We encourage our visitors to include their name, address, and phone number in the Guest Book at the top of the steps and come again. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany.

**(*) PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE
(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Praise Thee, Lord" ...Bach

Woodwind trio: Flute-Meghann Wright
Clarinet-Ashley Tarasuk
Bassoon-Jenna Nguyen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

All: The time of anticipation of new life.

Pastor: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

All: Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.

HYMN: #154 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CALL OF CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Almighty God, Light of the World, You caused the light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus; You continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in Your ways. We have not always opened our

eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (*with waves and prayer hands*)

M: We are all children of God gathered in the place. Let us greet one another as children of God. May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #159 The King of Glory Comes

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices. Who is the King of glory: what shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Judy and George Morgan **The Nearness of God: Wonder and Wonder**

ADVENT CAROL: #175 We Light the Advent Candles
(vs.1&2)

We light the Advent candles against the winter night, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light. The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return. We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn, We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 80: 1-7

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 32-37

Leader: This is the Good News.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON “How to be Human Now”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (You are invited to come to receive the bread and the cup using the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisle)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison):

O Lord, Emmanuel we thank You that in Jesus we find forgiveness for all that is past and a new future of meaning and purpose. Bless us as we have received this sacred meal and fill our lives with grace and goodness and lead us to new life. Come Lord Jesus, Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS (*You may come to place your offering in the plate up front*)

OFFERTORY: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” ...
Piano/Organ Duet “

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #44 Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, you heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

CALL TO PRAYER - PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*sins/sin against us*)

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN #152 Prepare the Way, O Zion

BENEDICTION

**CHORAL BENEDICTION #178 Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God
with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



Ushers: Consistory Members

Lay reader: Debbie Brown

Greeters: Gail Correll and Kathy Knoll

Altar Guild: Jan Smith

Welcome all to Bethany UCC!

Visitors, please sign our guest book in the narthex. Come again. In these days of COVID 19 please abide by these safety measures: All must wear masks and please sanitize hands as you enter and exit. The bulletins have everything you need for worship. Please space yourselves from one another except for family units. We will greet one another with waves and prayer hands. You will be invited to come forward to leave your offering in the plate up front.

Our Daily Bread for December, January and February are available in the rear of the sanctuary. A Donation of \$1 is appreciated.

AUDIO RECORDINGS If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio recording of the worship service, please let Bill Rumble know at wrumble@ptd.net. A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link.

If you have an Instagram account, you can follow us @BethanyUCCBethlehem. We also invite you to tag the church in your posts and use the hashtag #BethanyUCCBethlehem to share posts and photos on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!

2020 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance. Please note two vases will cost \$40. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30. Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk.

Any questions, contact the church office.

Scripture

Psalm 80 NRSV

Prayer for Israel's Restoration

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm.

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ⁴ O LORD God of

hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 NRSV

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13: 32-37 NRSV

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Todd's office hours are Monday and Tuesday from 9A – Noon. Any appointments may be made by calling the church office 610-868-4441

Debbie Brown's hours as church secretary are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-1:30.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY NOV 29

9:30 AM Adult DVD study "The Parables of Jesus" in FH

10:45 AM Worship on the First Sunday of Advent with Communion. Please join us after service as we decorate the Sanctuary!

MONDAY NOV 30 Deadline for Nuts and Chocolates on Broadway

WEDNESDAY DEC 2ND Handbell Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY DEC 6TH THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 AM Adult DVD study "The Parables of Jesus" in FH

10:45 AM Worship on the Second Sunday of Advent

2021 Giving Envelope boxes are available in Snyder Chapel for pick-up.

Remember our homebound members this holiday season with cards. Call the office for names and addresses.



The December Nut Sale is just around the corner. Remember nuts make a great gift for the holidays. Orders are due Monday November 30th. Please call Debbie Brown @ 484-358-3735. We will be doing nut preparation on Saturday December 5th and Monday December 6th. On both days beverages both hot and cold will be provided. If you want anything to eat, we ask that you bring your own per COVID-19 restrictions. If you are giving an order in person please write it down. I really appreciate everyone who participates both by ordering and preparing. Thanks again!



Order sheets from Chocolates on Broadway for Christmas candy sale are here and today is the last day to order. Don't forget how good this candy is and how much you enjoyed it in the past. Bethany has also benefited from your purchase. There is an order sheet posted in the Narthex. We will be taking orders until Nov. 30th and pick-up will be Dec. 13th. Please contact Debbie Brown in the office if you would like to place a last-minute order. Procrastinators welcome!

To watch and listen to the Installation of our Conference Minister the Reverend Doctor Bonnie Bates, just Google “PNEC Installation Service”. The sermon by Reverend Freeman Palmer is especially good and timely for our churches. You may also see the offertory anthem directed by Pastor Todd. Beverly Rumble is one of the Bach Choir singers who performed “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desire”

For the last two years we chose a group to benefit from our Christmas giving. Two years ago, it was New Bethany Ministries and last year was the Bethany Children’s Home. This year we have decided to turn our efforts to the homebound here at Bethany. We have a list of those we feel would benefit from our “Christmas Bags of Cheer” but would be happy to add your suggestions to our list. Please speak to a member of the Growth Committee, Pastor or the office with your ideas. Joyful Noise will be collected on December will help fund this project as well as any items you would like to contribute. A basket will be placed in the Narthax for contributions.

Suggested items

- Handmade Cards
- Holiday Hand Towels
- Fuzzy Socks
- Large print Word Search or Crossword Books
- Stuffed Toys or Holiday items



154 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Prepare the Way, O Zion

1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.