

## BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Church Office: 610-868-4441

Fax: 610-868-7918

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

E-Mail: [bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com](mailto:bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com)

**Web address:** [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



December 20, 2020

*Fourth 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**

December 20, 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: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (inspired by Chopin's Prelude in G Major, Op 28, No 3) Gustav Holst Arr: Jaye Lopez

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, all that are faithful, and all that seek faith.

**All: It is the season to sing and rejoice!**

Pastor: We would follow and find that peace.

**All: Let us rejoice in God, our Savior!**

HYMN: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Loving God, in this Holy Advent Season, You reveal again Your coming into the World. Give to us attentive hearts and spirits to discern Your presence in our midst. Help us to truly know that You are Emmanuel in Jesus Christ, meaning that You are with us. Amen.**

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

M: We are all children of God gathered in this 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 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: Dan and Margy Sabetti  
**The Nearness of God: Looking Inward**

ADVENT CAROL: #175 We Light the Advent Candles (vs.5)  
**Four candles burning brightly announce that Christ has come, prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room, prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 39-56

Leader: This is the Good News.

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON "Our World Upside Down"

OFFERING INVITATION

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

OFFERTORY: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1599 Setting by John Carter

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #196 In the Bleak Midwinter  
**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wiseman, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 “Hark, the glad sound, the Savior comes”

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!***



**Flowers and Bulletins** are placed by Linda Hollabaugh in memory of her Wedding Anniversary on 12/7 with Wayne K and in memory of the Birthday of Richard L “Rich” on 12/20  
Forever in My Heart

**Ushers:** Tom Hoffert and Len Kesselring

**Lay reader:** Bill Rumble

**Greeters:** Volunteer

**Altar Guild:** Jan Smith

### **Welcome all to Bethany UCC!**

With the discontinuation of our in person worship we hope and pray that you enjoy these worship services online, including Christmas Eve. A Blessed Christmas to All! To all who are participating in the services, 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.

**2021 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.**

**AUDIO & VIDEO 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](mailto: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! Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services at this special time of year!

## Scripture

### Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 NRSV

#### God's Covenant with David

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. <sup>2</sup> I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. <sup>3</sup> You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: <sup>4</sup> 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

<sup>19</sup> Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people. <sup>20</sup> I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; <sup>21</sup> my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. <sup>22</sup> The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. <sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. <sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. <sup>25</sup> I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. <sup>26</sup> He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

### Romans 16: 25-27

#### Final Doxology

<sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

## **Luke 1: 39-56 NRSV**

### **Mary Visits Elizabeth**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

### **Mary's Song of Praise**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." <sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.



**THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

**TODAY SUNDAY DEC 20 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**

10:45 AM Worship on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

**WEDNESDAY DEC 23 REHEARSALS**

5:30 Handbells

6:30 Instrumental

7:00 Brass

7:30 Hymn Singers

**THURSDAY DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**FRIDAY DEC 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**NEXT SUNDAY DEC 27 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
CHRISTMAS**

10:15 Prelude Special Music with Sue & Rebecca

10:45 Worship of Hymns and Carols

2021 Giving Envelope boxes are available in Snyder Chapel

Remember our homebound members this holiday season with cards. Copies are in the back of the church. Contact the office if you want a copy emailed to you.

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

**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.**

*A special Thank You to Rebecca Kesselring for providing the music for today's service. It is a joy to hear you play both the piano and organ.*



*Thank you to every one who participated in our Fund Raisers this month. Between Nuts, Chocolates on Broadway and Martellucci's Gift Cards it has been a successful month. Keep watching for new ideas.*



FROM US TO YOU.... MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!

*Bob and Sandy Ackerman*

*Marie and Marcie Wolfe*

*Dan and Margy Sabetti*

*Ken and Cindy Beck*

*Mike and Barbara Reiniger*

*Carol Haines*

*Sharon and Philip Haines*

*Linda Hollabaugh*

*George and Judy Morgan*

*Ina Denninger*

*Sue, Tom, Meghann and Katie Wright*

*Ted and Marion Hendricks*

*Wendy Glassic*

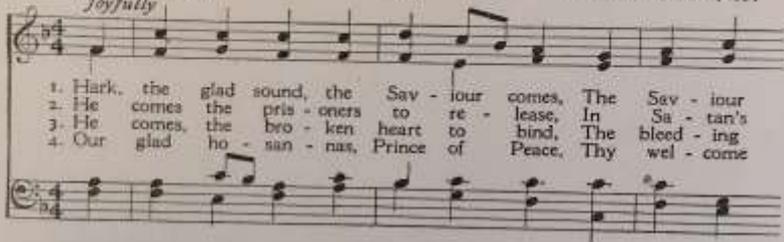
*Debbie Brown*

1. On Je - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -  
 2. Then cleansed be ev - ery Chris - tian breast, And  
 3. For Thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our

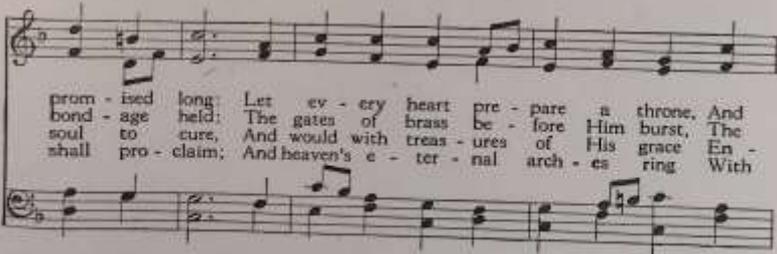
noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,  
 fur - nished for so great a Guest! Yea, let us each his  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; Once more up - on Thy

for he brings Glad ti - dings from the King of kings  
 heart pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there,  
 peo - ple shine, And fill the world with love di - vine. A-MEN.

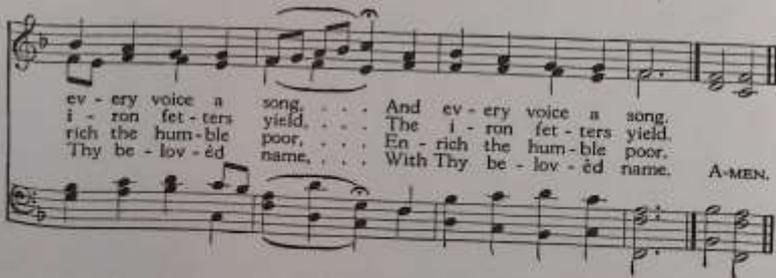
*Alternative Tune, Germany.*

*Joyfully*


1. Hark, the glad sound, the Sav - iour comes, The Sav - iour  
2. He comes the pris - oners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3. He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, And  
bond - age held; The gates of brass be - fore Him burst, The  
soul to cure, And would with treas - ures of His grace En -  
shall pro - claim; And heaven's e - ter - nal arch - es ring With



ev - ery voice a song, . . . And ev - ery voice a song,  
i - ron fet - ters yield, . . . The i - ron fet - ters yield,  
rich the hum - ble poor, . . . En - rich the hum - ble poor,  
Thy be - lov - ed name, . . . With Thy be - lov - ed name. A-MEN.

