

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441 Fax: 610-868-7918

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



Christmas Eve December 24, 2020 A Celebration of Christ's Birth

“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 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

8:00PM

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)**

Prelude Music

“O Holy Night” arr. W. Stickles Piano - Cindy Cressman

“Joy to the World” Handel, arr. M. L. Thompson
Handbell Choir

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” F. Mendelssohn, arr. F. Bock
Piano/Organ Duet - Rebecca Kesselring/Susan Wright

“He Whom Joyous Shepherds Praised” German carol, arr. D.
Hruby Orff instrumentation with flutes
Erin, Jenna, and Kaitlin Nguyen - Tim Rumble - Ashley Tarasuk -
Meghann Wright

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” arr. C. Marohnic
Piano – Cindy Cressman

“Ding Dong Merrily on High” French Carol, arr. W. Ryden
Clarinet Ensemble
Erin & Jenna Nguyen - Ashley Tarasuk /Bass Clarinet - Meghann
Wright

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen Trad. English, arr. A.L. Page
Piano/Organ Duet – Rebecca Kesselring/Susan Wright

“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine” 14th C. German, arr. M. L.
Thompson

“On Christmas Night” English Sussex Carol, arr. M. L. Thompson
“Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella” Trad. French arr. M. L.
Thompson
Choir chimes

“Bring A Torch Jeannette Isabella” French Carol, arr. E. A.
Hovdesven Organ – Susan Wright

“Good Christian Men Rejoice” In Dulci Jubilo arr. R. Hervig
Woodwind Ensemble
Kaitlin Nguyen – flute Meghann Wright – oboe
Jenna Nguyen and Ashley Tarasuk – clarinet
Erin Nguyen – bassoon

“O Leave Your Sheep” Quittez Pasteurs French Noel, L. Roques
Organ – Susan Wright

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE: “Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day” ... Trad. English
Carol arr. M. Larkin

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We gather this night to celebrate the Savior’s birth.

C: We gather as the Holy Family gathered in Bethlehem.

P: We gather as the Shepherds came from the fields, keeping
watch over their flocks by night.

**C: We gather with people around the world to worship the
newborn King. Let us worship God!**

OPENING CAROL “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**We praise You, Gracious God, that in Jesus Christ You have
come to us to speak Your word of love and life. Touch us with
unearthly joy, like the singing of angels; fill us with wonder,
like the singing of angels; fill us with wonder, like the eyes of
children; teach us to humble ourselves before You, like the
worshipping Magi. May our journey to the manger be the
beginning of a lifetime of service to Jesus, our Lord and
Savior, Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Four candles burning brightly announce that Christ has come, prepare, my heart believes it, and give the Christ Child room, prepare my heart believe it, and give the Christ Child room.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: Pastor Todd and Jean Fennell **The Nearness of God: Just a manger Away**

Come listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear, and signs of a cross in the distance appear, The Word once made flesh, yet the word ever near, One candle is lit for Christ's birthday is here.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-20

CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High"

MEDITATION: "Christmas Contradictions"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY "Glory to God in the Highest" ...G. Pergolesi
Handbell Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "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 wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give him; give my heart.

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.

THE CANDLELIGHTING

“Silent Night! Holy Night!” ...Gruber, arr. Smith Hustad
Congregational Carol “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

BENEDICTION

CLOSING CAROL “Joy to the World”

POSTLUDE “Echo Noel” ...Louis Claude D’Aquin/D. Bush

Our worship ends, our service begins!



Ushers: Tom Wright, Steve Tarasuk

Lay reader: Len Kesselring

Greeters: Volunteer

Altar Guild: Jan Smith

Christmas Eve Service Instrumentalists:

Lisa Williams and Meghann Wright / Trumpets

Tim Rumble and Pastor Todd Fennell / Trombones

Organ – Susan Wright Piano – Rebecca Kesselring

Flute – Meghann Wright

Liturgical dance – Jenna Nguyen

A heartfelt thank you to all of our Bethany musicians – Our Handbell Choir, Our Orff Instrument Group, Our Woodwind Players, Our Brass Quartet, our Keyboard players, and our liturgical dancers. Your time and talent are greatly appreciated by this congregation.

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. 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!

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent out.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of

Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c] ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them

The church staff at Bethany wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



**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*



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TONIGHT, DECEMBER 24

8:00 PM Musical prelude followed by Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 – First Sunday after Christmas

10:15 AM Pre-Service Christmas Music prelude.

10:45 AM Worship with Carol Sing, Woodwind ensemble
participates at worship.

2020 POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Our thanks to everyone who helped beautify our
sanctuary with their poinsettias.



IN MEMORY OF:

- Our Parents by Margy and Dan Sabetti
- Our parents, Herbert & Catherine Yost by the Rumble Family
- Our parents, William & Carolyn Rumble by the Rumble Family
- Harold & Betty Maurer by Cindy and Ron Cressman
- Bonnie & Tom Stout by the Stout and Ortwein Families
- Catherine Knipe by the Stout and Ortwein Families
- Loved Ones by Ted and Marion Hendricks

IN HONOR OF:

- Lucy St. Cressman's Christmas birthday by Cindy and Ron Cressman
- My family, thanks for your support! Debbie
- Susan Wuchter for all she has done for Bethany
- All those who work behind the scenes to keep Bethany going

MONETARY DONATIONS:

- In loving memory of Our father and pappy Harry W. Denninger by the Brunner and Wright families
- In loving memory of my husband, Harry W. Denninger by his wife Ina
- In loving memory of Parents Harry J. & Laura Denninger and Jacob H. & Ella Miller by Ina Denninger
- In loving memory of my family and friends by Linda J. Hollabaugh
- In loving memory of Richard & Dorothy Miller and Edward & Mary Bonawitz by Susan and Matt Miller
- In memory of our Parents by Ken and Cindy Beck
- In memory of Loved Ones by George and Judy Morgan
- In Honor of our Mother and "Nanny" Ina Denninger, with love and thanks from the Brunner and Wright families
- In Honor of Bill Rumble for all he does for Bethany



O Come, All Ye Faithful

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1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - tu - tion,
 3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing.

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

188 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains
 2 Shep - herds, why this ja - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - song!
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the an - gels sing.

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains
 Say, what may the ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song!
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -

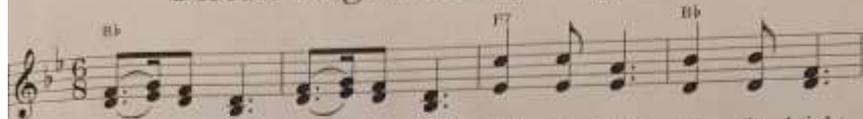
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Chor

Handwritten musical score for a choir, consisting of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is written in a simple, clear hand. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a melodic line with a slur over the first four notes. The second staff has a bass line with a slur over the first four notes. The lyrics are: "N - a in cae - les - tis De".

Silent Night! Holy Night!

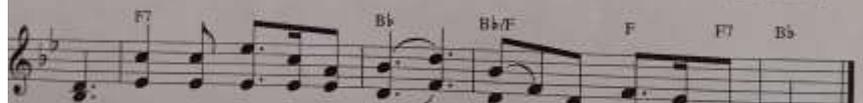
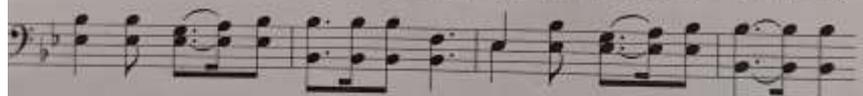
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1 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,



'round you vir - gin moth-er and child; ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing al - le - lu -
 ra - rant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing



mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace,
 ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.



Joy to the World!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re-ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav-ior reigns; let all their songs em-
 3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions

King; let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room,
 play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless-ings flow
 prove the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness,

and heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his
 (1) and heaven and na-ture sing.

(1) and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing
 joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy
 found, far as, far as the curse is found
 love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

heaven and na-ture sing,