

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



December 27, 2020

First Sunday after Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols

“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 27, 2020

10:45 AM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of Worship. May this be a time of blessing for you. **Please sign and pass the "Know Your Neighbor Pads"** which are located in the pew by the center aisle. 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 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ...carol arr. R Hervig
Woodwind Ensemble

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: People of God, sing and rejoice! God has come to us in Jesus the Christ, to reconcile and make new.

All: God has entered our existence of joy and sorrow, taking on human likeness in Jesus, born of Mary.

Pastor: Therefore, we rejoice, praising God, and singing.

All: Glory be to God in the highest, on earth peace to those who will the good. Christ is born. Alleluia!

Hymn: "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Our faces are sometimes lined with worry, O God; our days are full of stress and struggle, yet we come today in faith, grateful that in our midst of this crowded and troubled world, your child was born, lived and died full of grace and truth. Surprise us with your presence; renew our sense of wonder; and give us peace and courage to live as your

people in the world. May you be glorified in us, as in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: God has come to us in Christ, but often we live as if it made no difference. With sincere hearts and open minds, let us know acknowledge the sin that entangles us and prevents us from doing God's will.

All: God of grace and truth, we confess that with the coming of Christmas our thoughts have often turned to our own plans and projects. We have been quick to forget that it is the celebration of the birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We have not always been willing to worship you or ready to look for you in those around us, especially people in need. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts and minds, and focus them on your gift of the Word made flesh. May the joy of Christ's birth renew our faith in you and our commitment to serve those whom you love.

(moment of silence)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Pastor: Be of good courage, for God sent the Word into the world not to judge but to save. I say to you in the name of Jesus Christ: your sin is forgiven. Through the power of the Spirit, let us live as children of God. **All: Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” vs 2

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this; he has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

MEDITATION: A Lesson in Carols

The Night of Nights

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. Vs. 1 & 3

The World Awaits

Once In Royal David’s City Vs. 1 & 2

The Gift is Given

Away in A Manger. Vs. 1 & 2

The Announcement

Angels from the Realms of Glory. Vs. 1, 2, & 3

Come...

While Shepherds Watched Their Flock. Vs. 1, 2, & 3

and Rejoice

Joy to the World. Vs. 1 & 2

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY “Angels We Have Heard on High” ...French Carol, arr. A.Page Piano/Organ Duet

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of grace and glory, you have blessed us with the gifts of all creation. Especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus' birth and the joy of celebrating this gift in our congregation and in our homes. Receive the gifts we offer now and use them to your glory. May our lives give powerful witness to the peace and love that we have first received in our Lord Jesus. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Filled with wonder and joy that God's gift of grace has been given in the Son born for us, let us pray for the church, the good creation, and the needs of all.

(brief silence)

Everlasting God, let your radiance shine forth and renew in your people an eager desire to proclaim the good news of salvation to those who still wait in darkness. Hear us God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, on this blessed day the heavens and earth rejoice. Make us ever mindful of our calling to be faithful caretakers of all you have given us, so that generations to come may flourish and praise you. Hear us God.

Your Mercy is great.

Peacemaking God, we pray for those nations where your peace does not yet reign. Have mercy and deliver those who are caught in cycles of violence. Hear us, God.

Your mercy is great.

Wonderful Counselor, shelter those who seek refuge and safety but find no welcome. Help those who are homeless, hungry, unemployed, without healthcare, and all who are in any need or distress. Hear us, God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, watch over those who travel to join loved ones, and those who are lonely or grieving. Bless all who seek you, and open our hearts to receive the gift of your love. Hear us, God.

Your mercy is great.

Into the manger of your love, holy God, we lay our prayers, trusting in your promise made known to us in Jesus the Christ, our brother and Savior, who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 herald Angels Sing

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Sing We Now of Christmas
Sing we now of Christmas, noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



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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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY, DECEMBER 27 – First Sunday after Christmas

10:15 AM Special Christmas prelude

10:45 AM Worship. A service of lessons and carols and music by the Woodwind Ensemble

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 – No rehearsals

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 – New Year's Eve

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020 – HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 – Second Sunday after Christmas

10:45 AM Worship with Handbells



As we bid 2020 farewell, I would like to thank everyone for all they have done to support Bethany UCC. Whether it was ensuring your offering was sent in or keeping in touch with each other it is important. While we have all had a difficult year, we have accomplished a lot and will continue to do so in the future. Please continue to take care of yourself and others and know that with God's help we will gather again and continue the work that he has in store for us.

*Thank you,
Debbie Brown*

A special Thank You for today's service "A LESSON IN CAROLS". As many of you know the choir has been unable to rehearse or participate in any of our usual Christmas performances. Please join us as we share some Christmas carols with you this morning.

Debbie Brown
Beverly Rumble
Meghann Wright
Bill Rumble
Ashley Tarasuk
Adrienne Kotsko
Rebecca Kesselring

Also, Thanks to Len Kesselring for being our lay leader and of course Sue Wright who accompanies us as well as plans these musical performances.

In addition, please join me in thanking our Woodwind Ensemble who joins us today.

Jenna Nguyen
Kaitlin Nguyen
Erin Nguyen
Ashley Tarasuk
Meghann Wright

Last but not least we were able to enjoy a special prelude of Christmas Music by Rebecca Kesselring and Sue Wright.

Thank you to everyone for helping us send some Christmas Joy to our Bethany Family until we are able to gather again.

We are pleased to announce that thanks to your generosity we were able to fill our "CHRISTMAS BAGS OF CHEER". They were then delivered by Santa's helper Pastor Todd to insure they were received by Christmas. We had additional items after the bags were filled which were dropped off at Bethlehem Manor to be shared with the residents.
Thanks again!



218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where,

go, tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born.

Parts

1 While shep-berds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-berds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a-bove the earth
3 Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

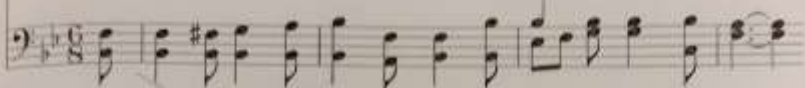
to Refrain

be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

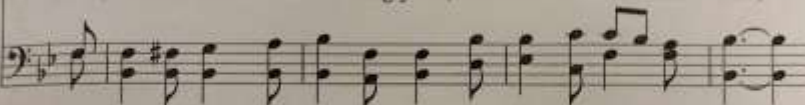
It Came upon the Midnight Clear 191



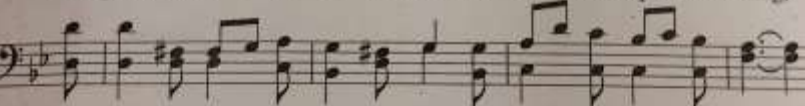
- 1 It came up on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



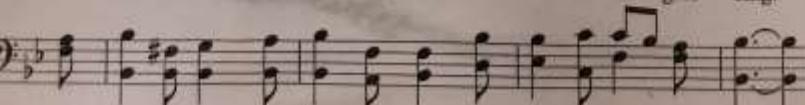
from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 when, with the ev-er-cir-cling years, shall come the time fore-told,



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, from heaven's all gra-cious King":
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



the world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.



Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by day like us he
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing

shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 grew; he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and
 love; for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our

man - ger for his bed; Ma - ry was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly lived on earth, shares our Sav - ior ho - ly
 sad - ness, and he in all our glad - ness
 on to the place where he has gone.

Away in a Manger

Martin Luther

German Folk-Song

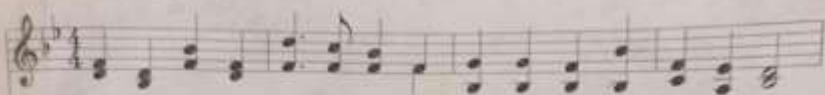
1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor Ba - by wakes, But
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask Thee to stay, Close

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head; The
lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing He makes, I
by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless

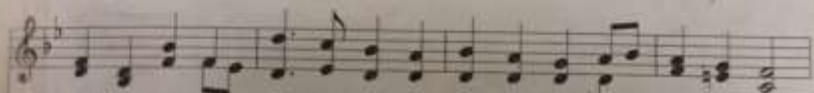
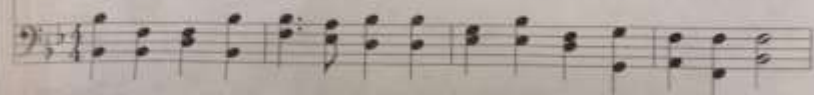
stars in the sky Looked down where He lay, The
love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky, How
all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - tent, And

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, A - sleep in the hay,
stay by my cratch - ette, Till morn - ing is nigh,
take us to heav - en, To live with Thee there.

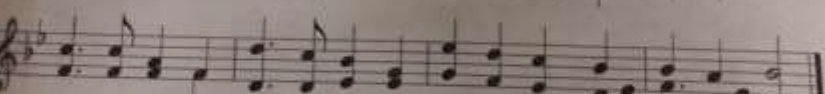
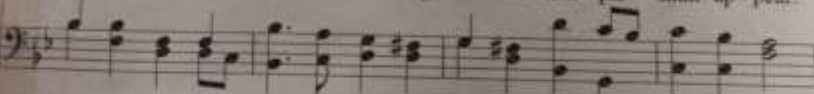
Angels, from the Realms of Glory 189



1. An-gels, from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep-herds, in the fields a-bid-ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag-es, leave your con-tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi-sions beam a-far;
4. Saints be-fore the al-tar bend-ing, watch-ing long in hope and fear,



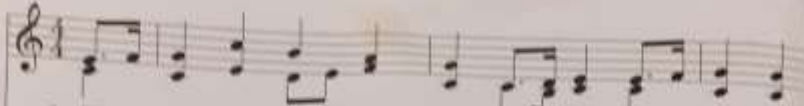
you who sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth:
God with us is now re-sid-ing, yon-der shines the in-fant light:
seek the great De-sire of na-tions, you have seen the na-tal star:
sud-den-ly the Lord, de-scend-ing, in his tem-ple shall ap-pear:



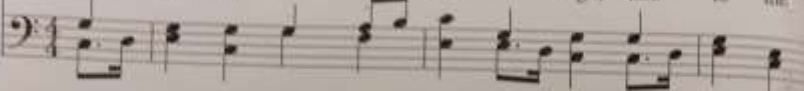
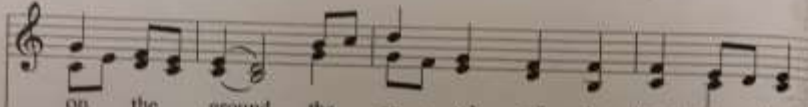
Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.




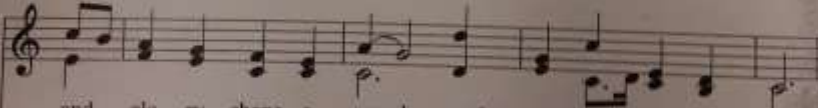
228 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks




1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed
 2 "Fear not!" said he, for might-y dread had seized their
 3 "To you, in Da-vid's town, this day is born of
 4 "The heav-en-ly babe you there shall find to hu-man
 5 Thus spoke the ser-aph, and forth-with ap-peared a
 6 "All glo-ry be to God on high, and to the

on the ground, the an-gel of the Lord came down,
 trou-bled mind; "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring
 Da-vid's line the Sav-ior, who is Christ the Lord,
 view dis-played, all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands,
 shin-ing thron'g of an-gels prais-ing God, who thus
 earth be peace; good will hence-forth from heaven to all

and glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round,
 to you and hu-man-kind, to you and hu-man-kind,
 and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
 and in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid,
 ad-dressed their joy-ful song, ad-dressed their joy-ful song:
 be-gin and nev-er cease, be-gin and nev-er cease!"



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,
 ploy; 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.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1749)

MUSIC: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the her - aid an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King,
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb;
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el,
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.