

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



December 6, 2020

Second 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 6, 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: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" with
"Emmanuel" in Piano / Organ Duet... Arr. D. Wyrzten

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Comfort, comfort ye, my people.

All: We find comfort in the midst of daily struggle.

Pastor: Comfort, comfort ye, my people.

All: We find comfort in the grace of daily service.

Pastor: Comfort, comfort ye, my people.

All: We find comfort in the Gospel of Jesus, our Emmanuel. Let us worship God!

HYMN: #176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of the wilderness, God of the wastelands of our lives, lead us apart to those places where we hear Your words most clearly. In the awareness of Christ's coming, may we order our lives with repentance and with compassion. Sift from our lives our useless chaff, that like good wheat into a barn, we may be gathered

into the realm of You Righteousness, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen

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: Jenna, Kaitlyn and Erin Nguyen **The Nearness of God: Giving and Receiving**

ADVENT CAROL: #175 We Light the Advent Candles (vs.3)
We light the second candle, and hear God's holy Word, it tells us, cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord, it tells us, cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord!

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 40: 1-11

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

Leader: This is the Good News.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON "Only One Way To Turn"

OFFERING INVITATION

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

OFFERTORY: "Watchmen Tell Us Of The Night"..arr. L. Dengler

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.

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 #158 Blessed Be The God of Israel

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 presented in honor of Marion Hendricks' Birthday by her husband Ted, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchild

Ushers: Dan & Margy Sabetti, Cindy Beck and Bob Ruhe

Lay reader: Margy Sabetti

Greeters: Dan & Margy Sabetti

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.

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. The schedule for 2021 will be posted in the coming weeks.

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!

Scripture

Isaiah 40: 1-11 NRSV

God's People Are Comforted

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
9 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep

2 Peter 3: 8-18a NRSV

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, ^[a] not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ^[b]

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening^[a] the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Final Exhortation and Doxology

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Mark 1: 1-8 NRSV

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 DEC 6

9:30 AM Adult DVD study "The Parables of Jesus" in FH
10:45 AM Worship on the Second Sunday of Advent

MONDAY DEC 7 9am Nut Prep in FH

WEDNESDAY DEC 9 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
followed by Instrumental Rehearsal

THURSDAY DEC 10 7pm Consistory

**NEXT SUNDAY DEC 13 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

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

Poinsettia Orders are due on Sunday December 13th. Order forms are in the back of the Sanctuary.

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.

RSVP by Sunday December 20th if you wish to attend the Christmas Eve Service. Call the office @ 610-868-4441.

“CHRISTMAS BAGS OF CHEER”

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 13 and will help fund this project as well as any items you would like to contribute. A basket will be placed in the Narthex for contributions.

Suggested items

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



Thank you to everyone who supported our December nut sale as well as the Chocolates on Broadway sale. Look forward to some delicious sales in 2021. If you have any ideas for future sales please pass them to someone on the Growth Committee.

176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, O might - y gates: be - hold, the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart: make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
 4 So come, my Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Let new and

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
 you: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me your in - ner
 no - bler life be - gin! Your Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - domed with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel: your grace and love in me re - veal.
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WORDS: George Weisad (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); new text by
 MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789



158 Blessed Be the God of Israel

Unison

1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
 2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
 3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty,
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home,
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day,
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

WORDS: Michael Ferry (1942-1996)

MERLE'S TUNE
7A.7AD