

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 12, 2021 Third 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 12, 2021

10:45 AM

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany. As per the Consistory decision, we will return to wearing masks for all services and meetings here at Bethany. We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes when appropriate.

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

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Meditation on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"
based on 13th C. Plainsong, arr. J Southbridge

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God meets us in the power of the Gospel.

P: In the gospel, we find hope.

L: God moves us by the power of the Gospel.

P: God moves us to bring hope into a despairing world.

L: God sends us to proclaim the gospel.

P: Jesus has come; Jesus will come again to save and to love.

*HYMN: #153 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, in the Advent season, You reveal again Your coming into the world. Thank You for revealing Yourself afresh in the midst of our distractions. Give us attentive hearts and spirits to discern Your presence in our midst. Bless all who are suffering with your healing love and grace. In the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel (God with us). Amen.

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

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #159 Refrain
vs.1 Refrain

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, Margy & Ava Sabetti
"Love in Action"

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #175 Vs. 1&3

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.

Three candles now are gleaming and show us the true way, rejoice, the Baptist cries out, your Lord has come today, rejoice, the Baptist cries out, your Lord has come today!

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 12: 2-6

I John 4: 7-16

* Luke 1: 26-38

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "It's Love that is Born"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Prepare the Way of the Lord" ...Mozart arr.
Hopson Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #34 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of Justice and Love, transform these offerings, that they may be gifts of justice and love for a world in need of hope and help. Let love flow through these offerings, that they may become gifts of love for the world.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER - PASTORAL PRAYER

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: #160 Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

*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: are presented by Rebecca and Len Kesselring.
BULLETINS: are presented by Rebecca and Len Kesselring.
GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti
USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti, Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe
LAY READER: Margy Sabetti

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. Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

Scriptures

Isaiah 12: 2 - 6 NRSV

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.
⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

I John 4: 7 - 16 NRSV

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Luke 1: 26 - 38 NRSV

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."^[a] ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the

Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”^[b] ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

As the weather grows colder, we need to remember those who have no home and rely on the shelter for a place to stay and a warm meal. Bethany has signed up to provide and serve a meal on Friday February 11 and Tuesday March 8. We need 10 – 15 people each night so please let Wendy Glassic or the office know if you are willing to help. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We are continuing the tradition of donating money to Bethany in lieu of sending our Bethany Friends Holiday Cards. This Holiday Season, a \$10 donation to Bethany will forego sending out cards to Bethany Members/Friends wishing them a Merry Christmas. Your donation must be received by today December 12th. Your name will appear in the bulletin on December 19th and Christmas Eve. Please make the check payable to “Bethany UCC” with greetings in the memo line.
Thank You.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettia Orders are due today Sunday December 12th. Order forms are in the back of the Sanctuary. We will once again get our flowers from Cierech's Greenhouse for a cost of \$10. Please help us decorate our sanctuary with these beautiful flowers on Christmas Eve and then take them home to enjoy!

Oils of the Bible

All are invited to attend a presentation on "The Oils of the Bible" by Jean Fennell. The focus will be on the scriptural accounts of oils connected with the Christmas Story of Jesus. This will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday December 19th at 9:30am.

The Bach Choir is presenting Bach's Christmas Oratorio on Sunday December 12th at 4pm. This performance will be at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem. The Bethlehem Concert will be live streamed as well. Tickets are available.

The Bethlehem Interchurch dart league is having a season. Have you ever wondered about the doors in fellowship hall that are on the wall? That is our dart Baseball board. Our matches are on Monday nights at Bethany and other churches in the city. It is a get together for fun and fellowship with a little bit of competition. Our Bethany team has a new Captain/Manager this year so if you have any questions contact Steve Tarasuk, (610) 554-0125 (call or text), steve.tarasuk@gmail.com. Watch the bulletin for more information about a fun get together after the holidays to meet the team and have a chance to throw against them. The last time our guests beat the team.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 153

ADVENT

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king.

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

60 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

G Am7 G C D D7

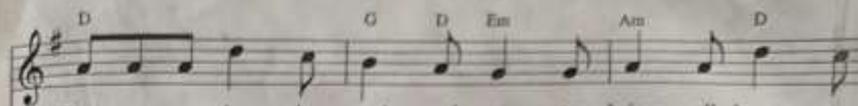
1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

G C Am7 D7 G Am7

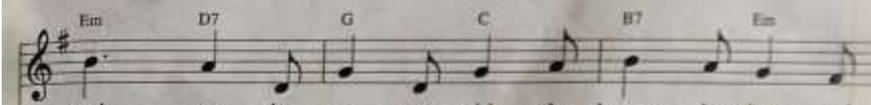
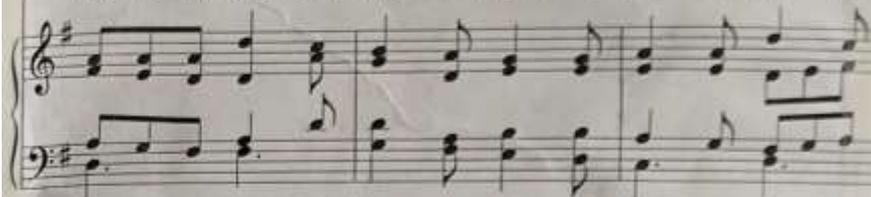
an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

G C D G Am7 D C G

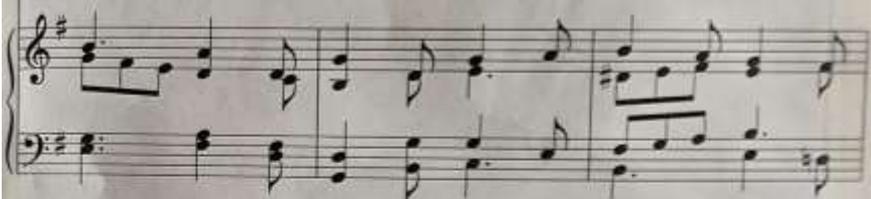
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav - en - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - ery day we share and



lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY DECEMBER 12 Third Sunday in Advent

10:45AM Worship in the sanctuary as we continue our advent celebration. Candy will be available for pick up.

Poinsettia orders and Christmas greetings are due!

1:45PM The Live Nativity Program is again today @ the Rose Garden. The Prelude begins at 1:45. Many thanks to Sue Wright and the Bethany participants.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30AM Oils of the Bible in Fellowship Hall

10:45 Worship in the sanctuary. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal after service. Installation of candelabras.

Looking ahead.... Wednesday December 22nd 5:30p.m.

Handbell Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal, 7p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal.

Christmas Eve Special Music Prelude 8-8:30pm Worship Service @ 8:30pm service.

Sunday December 26th Join us for a Lesson in Carols