

# 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

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 19, 2021 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 19, 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: "O Come O Come Emmanuel/ Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" ...adapted from Plainsong, arr. T. Fetter

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: By the word of God the heavens were made.

**P: By the spirit of God was life begun.**

L: By the wisdom of God laws of God were laid.

**P: By the love of God was born God's Son.**

L: By the grace of God humankind was saved.

**P: By the power of God the victory was won.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #161 People Look East

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Loving God, your care for us is evident in all you do!**

**You made your love for us known in the coming of Emmanuel. Forgive our ingratitude after all you have done for us. Draw us to your Word. Give us a new song to sing that will resonate throughout this world and begin with us today. In Jesus name we pray. 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: Len & Rebecca  
Kesselring "A Timely Message"

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #175 Vs. 1&4

**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.**

**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 SCRIPTURES

Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

\* Luke 1: 39-56

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Mary, the Magnificent"

OFFERING INVITATION

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "O Jesus Grant Me Hope and Comfort" ....  
Franck, arr. Stein      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: #97 Hark the Glad Sound

#### \*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: "Wachet Auf" .... harm. J.S. Bach

***Our worship ends, our service begins!***



FLOWERS: are presented by Rebecca and Len Kesselring.

BULLETINS: are presented by Rebecca and Len Kesselring.

GREETERS: Cindy Beck

USHERS: Len Kesselring, Bob Ruhe, Volunteers

LAY READER: Mike Reiniger

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

## Scriptures

### Psalm 80:1 - 7 NRSV

#### Prayer for Israel's Restoration

**To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm.**

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
<sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. <sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

<sup>6</sup> You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh

among themselves. <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

## **Hebrews 10: 5 - 10 NRSV**

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” <sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## **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.

## **From the Treasurers Desk**

Friday December 31, 2021 is the last day to have your offerings credited as 2021 contributions. You may either do this by insuring they are postmarked by the 31st, bringing them into the office, or outside mailbox by that date.

2022 Offering Envelopes will get here whenever.

Unfortunately, like everything else they are experiencing problems with manufacturing and shipping. So, while we wait for them to arrive, please continue to make regular contributions using your current number and envelopes that are in the pews.

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

*Marie and Marcie Wolfe*

*Dan and Margy Sabetti*

*Ken and Cindy Beck*

*The Reiniger Family*

*Sharon and Philip Haines*

*Linda Hollabaugh*

*George and Judy Morgan*

*Jack and Diane Brunner*

*Ina Denninger*

*Sue, Tom, Meghann and Katie Wright*

*Susan Wuchter*

*Doris Esslinger*

*The Talijan Family*

*Matt, Susan and Jacob Miller*

*Ted and Marion Hendricks*

*Wendy Glassic*

*Debbie Brown*

*Bev and Bill Rumble*

*Joan Hottle*

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **TODAY 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.

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21**

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal  
7PM Chancel Choir

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23**

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve**

7:30PM Choir/ instrumental report time  
8:00PM Pre service Christmas Prelude  
8:30PM Christmas Eve Service

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 First Sunday of Christmas**

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary, join us for a Service of Lesson in Carols.

No rehearsals Wed. Dec. 29 Chancel Choir sings at worship Jan 2, 2022

Wed. Jan 5 Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm

Don't forget to sign up for the After Christmas Handbell and Chancel Choir party on Wed. Jan 12th, 2022.

## **Dart Baseball is Back**

**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](mailto: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.**

### 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.

## People, Look East

1 Peo-ple, look east, the time is near of the crown-ing of the  
 2 Fur-rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall  
 4 An-gels an-nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are a-ble, trim the  
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour-ish, that in  
 brim, shin-ing be-yond the frost-y weath-er, bright as  
 earth. Set ev-ery peak and val-ley hum-ming with the

Peo-ple, look east and sing to-day:

hearth and set the ta-ble, Peo-ple, look east:  
 course the flow-er may flour-ish,  
 sun and moon to-geth-er.  
 word, the Lord is com-ing.

Peo-ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*Joyfully*

1. Hark, the glad sound, the Sav - our comes, The Sav - our  
2. He comes the pri - 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.

## Thanks

Thank you for your orders for Chocolates on Broadway profits were \$535. Also, the nut sale for December raised an additional \$600. Donations were taken to the Bethany Children's Home this past week. Thanks for all that was collected. Thank you to all who participated in the Live Nativity last weekend