

# 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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**Web address:** [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



## “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, 2021

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

“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming” ... arr. Kevin Mc Chesney  
Handbell Choir

“O Little Town” (Tune: English Traditional) arr. John Coates  
Jr. Chancel Choir

“He Shall Feed His Flock” from Messiah ...Handel arr. Ball  
Piano/Organ Duet

“Jesus Our Brother, Kind and Good” ...arr. D. Angerman  
Choir Chimes

“O Holy Night” ...A.C. Adam  
Banjo

“Procession Carol” – with percussion ...arr. James R. Green  
Chancel Choir

“Good King Wenceslas” ...arr. B. Ingram  
Handbell Choir

“Once in Royal David's City” ...Gauntlett, arr. A. L. Page  
Piano/Organ Duet

“Gloria” ...arr. F. L. Callahan  
Handbell Choir

“Silent Night” ... F. Gruber  
Banjo

“The First Nowell” ... D. E. Wagner  
Handbell Choir

PRELUDE: “Only A Baby Came” ... Natalie Sleeth  
Chancel Choir

### 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: #182 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” –  
Trumpet and Organ... arr. D. Willcocks  
Please sing in unison

### \*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 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**

ANTHEM: A Christmas Introit – Chancel Choir and  
Handbells ...R. Hartley

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**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.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: Pastor Todd and  
Jean Fennell

**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: #180 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

MEDITATION: "Merry Incarnation"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY "A Christmas Package" ...arr. W. Hanson  
Instrumental Ensemble

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  
“Mary Had a Baby” ... Harm P. Hamill  
\*Congregational Carol “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING CAROL: # 179 “Joy to the World” ... arr. R.L.  
Zimmerman Instrumental Ensemble

\*POSTLUDE “I Saw Three Ships” ... arr. R.L. Zimmerman  
Instrumental Ensemble

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

*Please leave your plastic candle holders with the ushers as you leave.*



**Advent Wreath:** Pastor Todd and Jean Fennell

**Ushers:** Tom Wright, Steve Tarasuk, Len Kesselring, Jack Brunner

**Lay reader:** Len Kesselring

**Bulletins:** are given to honor the birth of the Christ Child and are dedicated with love and humility for his gift of life eternal by Len and Rebecca Kesselring.

*A Heartfelt thank you to all of our Bethany Musicians – Our Handbell Choir, Our Chancel Choir, and Our Instrumental Ensemble and Instrumental Soloists. Your time and talent are greatly appreciated by this congregation.*

**2022 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](mailto: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. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25**



## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 – First Sunday after Christmas**

10:45 AM    Worship with a Service of Lessons and Carols



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*



## **2021 POINSETTIA DONATIONS**

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

### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

- Our Parents by Margy and Dan Sabetti
- Herbert & Catherine Yost by the Rumble Family
- Bill & Carolyn Rumble by the Rumble Family
- Nicole by Rob and Heather Brennan
- Loved Ones by George & Judy Morgan
- Parents and Family Members by The Reiniger Family
- Loved ones by Pastor Todd and Jean Fennell
- Our parents by Susan and Judy Wuchter
- Bonnie & Tom Stout by the Stout and Ortwein Families
- Catherine Knipe by the Stout and Ortwein Families
- Loved Ones by Ted and Marion Hendricks
- Wayne K., Love of my Life and Richard "Rich" Light of my Life by Linda Hollabaugh
- Bobbie and Leonard Kesselring Sr. by Len and Rebecca Kesselring
- Edward and DeMaris Stanley by Len and Rebecca Kesselring

### **IN HONOR OF:**

- Sue Wright for her wonderful gift of Music, Leadership and her Commitment to our Savior, Jesus Christ by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.
- Bev and Bill Rumble for their love and friendship by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.

- Tim, Rachel and new baby “Lady” Jane Rumble by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.
- My parents, family, and friends. You are loved.  
Debbie

#### 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 Richard & Dorothy Miller and Edward & Mary Bonawitz by Susanne and Matt Miller
- In memory of our Parents by Ken and Cindy Beck
- In memory of Rev. Dr. Donald Esslinger by Doris Esslinger
- In memory of Les and Joanne Albaugh by John Albaugh and Minh, Lisa, Jenna, Kaitlin, and Erin Nguyen



## 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 - ta - 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;

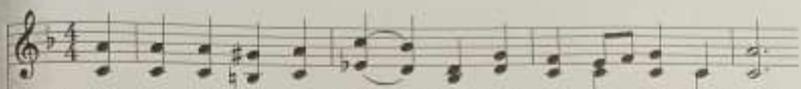
come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Refrain*

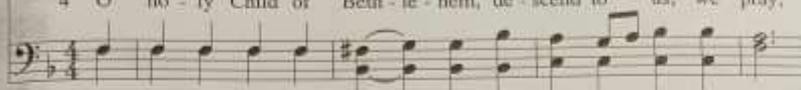
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

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

# ○ Little Town of Bethlehem 180



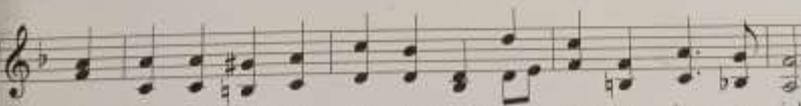
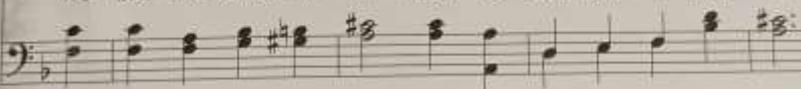
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by,  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love,  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day,



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night,  
 and prais - es - sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth,  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in,  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.



# Silent Night! Holy Night!

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*Bb* *F7* *Bb*

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,

*Eb* *Bb* *Eb* *Bb*

'round yon 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 - nant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

*F7* *Bb* *Bb/F* *F* *F7* *Bb*

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 en-  
 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,

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,