

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



January 2, 2022

"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

January 2, 2022

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: "The First Nowell". trad. English, arr. A.L. Page
Piano/ organ duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Word has become flesh and dwells among us.

P: Let Christ's light shine in the dark places of our lives.

L: Let Christ's light shine in the dark places of the world.

P: God is with us! Alleluia! Amen!

*HYMN: #189 Angels from the Realms of Glory

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal God, Who makes all things new we humbly bring before You the record of our lives in the year now past. Where life has been good to us, do not let us take more of the credit than we deserve. Where we have been good to others, help us to forget all thoughts of honor and reward. Where we have fallen short, forgive us and free us of our guilt. Cleanse us, Lord, by Your mercy, guide

us by Your truth, lead us in hope and good will, through the grace of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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): #198 Good Christian Friends Rejoice. Vs. 3

Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save; calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 1:3-14

* Luke 2: 21-35

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Simeon's Christmas"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow." Spiritual,
arr. J. Schrader Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #196. In the Bleak Midwinter.
Vs. 4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wiseman, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(Today you will receive a wafer and a cup of your choice (wine or juice) Please place cups in the basket as you return to your seat)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING(Unison)

O God, we are glad by the good news of Your love for us and for all. We thank You for creating us and giving us all that is necessary for life. We thank You for Your action in Christ by which our lives are measured, found wanting, and renewed. Bless us by Your grace in this New Year, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER – LITANY FOR THE NEW YEAR

P: O God of the beginning, by your Spirit you created order out of disorder and life out of nothingness.

C: We praise you that our lives begin and continue in you, our God.

P: Gracious God, you have fashioned us in your own image and do desire that we grow in your likeness.

C: Let your glory be reflected in our lives.

P: Father of us all, you are the source and sustainer of life, we praise you for our creation and preservation.

C: Sustain us by your power that we may live life fully.

P: From the beginning, O God, you have created us for peace and for love.

C: Guide us in the ways of peace as we become more and more those who love.

P: Eternal God, you created us for joy and adventure.

C: We rejoice in our adventure with you.

P: As we begin this new year, we recognize that you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, who was and is and is to come.

C: In you all things are held together.

P: We know that you are working all things together for good for all who believe.

C: Work in and through us to fulfill your purposes.

P: O God, you make possible new beginnings for us and lead us toward a new day.

C: We would lay aside the weight of the past and move into the promise of the future.

P: Grant to us wisdom to journey forward with you, confident in your guidance and grace.

C: Lead us on.

P: As we make our new resolves, grant us courage to live in conscious obedience to and imitation of Jesus Christ.

C: Lord Jesus, we would follow in your steps.

P: The journey is long and the way is not sure, O Lord, but we trust in you, knowing you are able to show us the way.

C: Lead us forth toward promise in sure hope with joy.

All: Amen.

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: #188 Angels We Have Heard on High

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #191. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear. Vs .3

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when, with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

*POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are presented in honor of another year here at Bethany to celebrate God's love.

GREETERS: Gail Correll

USHERS: Gail Correll, Tom Hoffert, Volunteers

LAY READER: Gail Correll

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.

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.

Scriptures

Ephesians 1: 3 - 14 NRSV

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ^[a] before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,^[b] having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this^[c] is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Luke 2: 21 - 35 NRSV

Jesus Is Named

²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;^[a] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.^[b] ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon^[d] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant^[e] in peace, according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon^[f] blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

10:45 Worship in the sanctuary with Communion.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

NO Handbell Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 Epiphany

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

5:30PM Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

12 -? Shipps/Catanzaro Wedding

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary please stay after service to help put away the Christmas decorations.

Next Wednesday Jan 12th After Christmas choir party. Sign up is NOW!! Details in the music room.

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. 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.

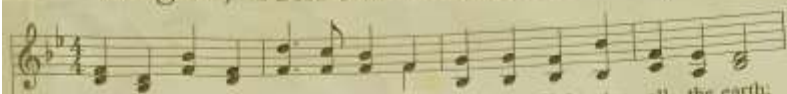
Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

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.

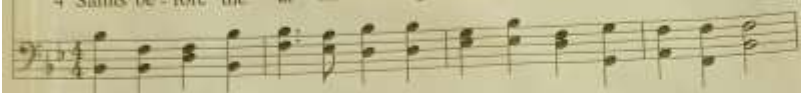
UPCOMING EVENT!

A Breakfast (Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Potato Patties, Juice & Coffee) will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sat. Jan 22nd with seating's @ 9am & 10 am. Tickets of \$7.00 are available to purchase please see Bev Rumble.

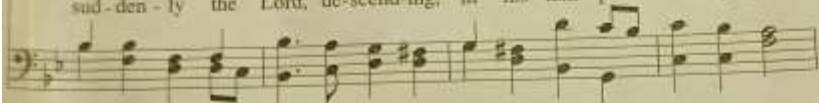
Angels, from the Realms of Glory 189



- 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, waich - 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.

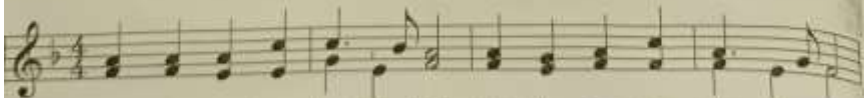


Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

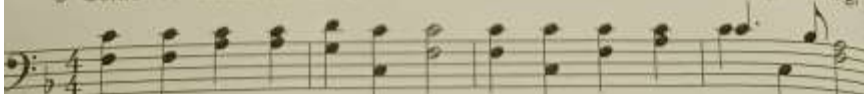


CHRISTMAS

188 Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the an - gels sing,



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strain.
 Say, what may the ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend-ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King

Refrain

Glo ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis. De - o!

