

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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



November 27, 2022

First Sunday in 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

November 27, 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, masks are optional 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

P: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

L: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

P: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

*HYMN: #154 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

As followers of Christ, we are always on a journey. On our pilgrimage there is no time when we can afford to stop growing in love, in strength, and in knowledge of God. So it is that when we gather to worship we must confess those places in which we need to grow. In preparation of the coming of Christ, let us confess our need for growth, in silence before God: (silent prayer of confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #159 The King of Glory Comes 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: Savor the Moments-Within Time, Yet Timeless ...Bev & Bill Rumble

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Romans 13: 11 - 14

* Luke 21: 25 - 36

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "The Steadfast Word"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "People, Look East" ...French melody, arr. M. Shaw
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**

Holy God, You are the maker of heaven and earth. Accept these offerings we present to You today. May they become vessels of support for your work in this church and in Your world. Consecrate us anew as living sacrifices, to Your service. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – pg. 9

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

***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 placed in celebration of the start of the advent season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior by Rebecca and Len Kesselring.

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto, Lisa Williams

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

Scriptures

Romans 13: 11 - 14 NRSV

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Luke 21: 25-36 NRSV

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand

up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Concert Goers

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem will present the Christmas Oratorio, parts 4-6 on Saturday Dec.

10th at 4pm at First Presbyterian Church Allentown and Sunday Dec. 11th at 4 pm at first Presbyterian church Bethlehem. Tickets are \$45 for adult, \$9 for students (up to 21) and \$20 for livestream.

The Camerata Singers are presenting the complete Handel's Messiah on Sunday, Dec. 17th at 7:30pm First Presbyterian Church Allentown. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$17 for Seniors and Free for students.

FUNDRAISERS

Gift Cards from Dan Schantz

We will be selling Monthly Madness cards for the holidays. You purchase a gift card for \$25 that will entitle you to a gift each month. The church will earn \$10 for each card. Orders for cards and payment are due by today, Nov. 27th. Please see Linda Wieand or Debbie Brown with any questions.

Christmas at Bethany

We would like to collect gift donations for the resident youth at Bethany Children's Home in Wormelsdorf, Pennsylvania. You may check out the wish list online @ [bethanyhome .org/holidays-at-bethany](http://bethanyhome.org/holidays-at-bethany). The wish list will also be posted in the narthex. All gifts (new and unwrapped) should be dropped off at church by Sunday, Dec. 11. Thank You!

BETHLEHEM EMERGENCY SHELTER

Our first volunteer night at The Bethlehem Emergency Shelter will be here before you know it. Thank you to all of the volunteers who already signed up for our nights this season! You are truly awesome! At this time, we are looking for donations to purchase the items to make our first dinner. I have not made my final decision on the meal at this time so if anyone has any suggestions on recipes to feed 70 people, please feel free to share them! Donations in ANY amount are greatly appreciated. You can either see me before or after church or drop off your donation at the church office. Please make sure it is clearly marked for the "BES dinner". I would like to have a very brief meeting after

church on December 4th with the volunteers to fill you in on new details for this season and to have you complete the Volunteer Application for this season. All volunteers must complete one prior to your scheduled shelter night. Thank you again and I look forward to working with you at the shelter!

Poinsettias

Order forms are now available as we start thinking about how lovely our church looks on Christmas Eve. The cost of these lovely flowers will be \$10 and the orders are due by Dec. 12th.

Gift Cards from Martellucci's

Contact Margy Sabetti for \$25 gift cards for Martellucci's Pizza. We will be taking orders for these cards until Dec. 11th if you would like to use them as Christmas gifts.

Thank You

To Rebecca Kesselring for providing the music for this morning's service.

To West Side Moravian Church who invited us to join them at their Love feast. This will be celebrated tonight Sunday Nov. 27th at 7pm. The flier is posted in the narthex on the bulletin board.

To everyone who donated to the PNEC fund. We will collect until after service today. We are asking for \$1 per person.

An Order for Communion

Invitation:

M: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

C: This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

Men and women, youth, and children, come from the east and the west, from the north, and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

Call to Prayer:

M: God be with you.

C: And also, with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

M: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Congregational Response: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know You as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen

The Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving(unison)

We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ews put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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.
 heav - en's em - ploy, a - dorned 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.

Advent Devotionals

Please pick up your Advent Devotionals "Jesus Light of the World" they are available in the back of the Sanctuary. Please take one per family.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 First Sunday of Advent

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary, join us as we celebrate the start of Advent. We will also celebrate communion.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Darts vs. Star of Bethlehem at home.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:30AM -1:30PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 Second Sunday of Advent

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary as we light the second candle. Please stay after to help us decorate the sanctuary.

Bethlehem Live Nativity

The Live Nativity will be presented in the Bethlehem Rose Garden the weekend of Dec. 10th and 11th. Please join us as the Bethany Choir provides the music to tell the story of Christ's birth. Rehearsal will be Wednesday Dec. 7th at 8pm. All are welcome. Please sign up in the choir room today if you would like to participate.