

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:30-1:30

Church Office: 610-868-4441

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



December 11, 2022

Second 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

December 11, 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: "Advent Melody" ...arr. E. T. Rogers  
4 hands/ 2 pianos

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Who is the One whom we seek?

**P: The Christ who will come to restore us and renew us  
in the midst of joy and despair.**

L: Who is the One who will come to help us rejoice and give  
thanks in all circumstances?

**P: Jesus our Lord will restore, heal and invite us in the  
midst of God's glory. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #82 Hark the Glad Sound

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of Grace and God of glory, You reach into our lives  
and into the very heart of this world to bring peace and  
restoration. Help us to proclaim Your gifts of hope and  
joy and use us as instruments of Your wondrous Love.  
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

\*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-The Message of Givenness ... Barbara & Michael Reiniger

ADVENT CAROL #175 We Light the Advent Candles (vs.3)  
**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 35: 1-10

James 5: 7-10

\* Matthew 11: 2-11

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Expectations and Disappointments"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"  
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 One, this Advent season we wait in hope. And we give in hope; Hope for your coming reign; Hope because of Your presence with us even now. Receive our gifts, and use them for Your work of healing and hope in our world. 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.**

\*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 and BULLETINS are placed by Rebecca and Len Kesselring

GREETERS: Volunteer

USHERS: Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe

LAY READER: Rebecca Kesselring

## Scriptures

### Isaiah 35: 1 – 10 NRSV

**35** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool

and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **James 5: 7 - 10 NRSV**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## **Matthew 11: 2 - 11 NRSV**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with

a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

### *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.*

### **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.

Remember that all giving to be credited to 2022 must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

*BES*

*Many thanks to those who served at the Shelter on Friday night and to Sherri Gangwere, Coordinator. Also, thanks to all who donated baked goods or donated to cover meal expenses!*

Today is the deadline for Christmas gifts to the Bethany Children's Home. Thank You!

**Poinsettia orders and Martellucci's gift cards need to be ordered today. Please see Debbie with any questions.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO GREET, USHER AND READ IN THE UPCOMING YEAR. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED OR REMOVED FROM THE LIST.

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

***PLEASE NOTE!***

*There will be NO Christmas Day Worship Service. Carols and Stories will be done on Sunday Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Day*



# Hark, the Glad Sound

Isa. 61:1

Philip Doddridge, 1735

LOBT GOTT IHR CHRISTEN 8.6.8.6.6.

Melody by Nicholas Hermann, 1554

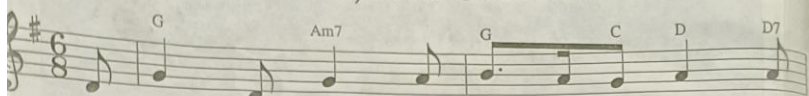
1. Hark, the glad sound, the Sav - ior comes, The  
 2. He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In  
 3. He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, The  
 4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, Thy

Sav - ior prom - ised long: Let ev - ery heart pre -  
 Sa - tan's bond - age held: The gates of brass be -  
 bleed - ing soul to cure, And would with trea - sures  
 wel - come shall pro - claim; And heav'n's e - ter - nal

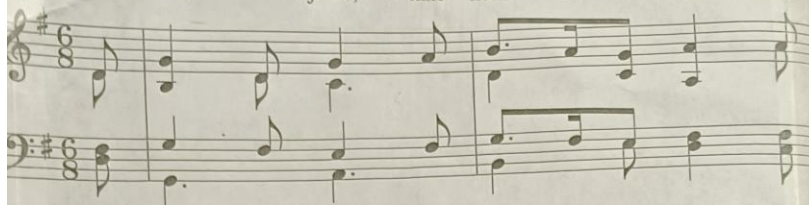
pare a throne, And ev - ery voice a  
 fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters  
 of his grace En - rich the hum - ble  
 arch - es ring With thy be - lov - ed

song, And ev - ery voice a song.  
 yield, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 poor, En - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 name, With thy be - lov - ed name.

# 60 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



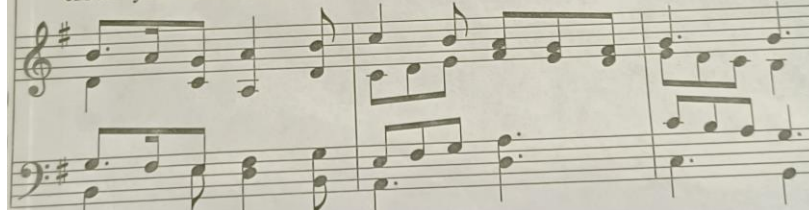
1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



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



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

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 Second Sunday of Advent**

10:45          Worship in the Sanctuary as we light the third candle. Poinsettia and Martellucci's orders due.

1:45PM          Live Nativity in Bethlehem Rose Garden

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 12**

9:30AM          1:30PM Office Hours

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

Office Closed

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**

Office Closed

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**

9:30AM          1:30PM Office Hours

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:45          Worship in the Sanctuary as we light the fourth candle. Handbells will play.

*Sponsor a Bill*

*This week we had the pianos tuned here at Bethany. If you would like to sponsor the payment of one of these tunings the cost for each is \$110.25. Please let me know if you are interested.*

*Debbie*

