

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



December 18, 2022

Fourth 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 18, 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: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ...arr. K. Mc Chesney
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice before the God of all peoples,

P: For God comes in power to judge the earth.

L: Let us open our hearts in worship and trust, and offer our lives in willing service,

P: For God shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with truth, Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #80 There's A Voice in the Wilderness

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, and come with your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign among us by your Holy Spirit until you come again. 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- Christmas Lists ... Jenna Nguyen & Andrew Barron

ADVENT CAROL #175 We Light the Advent Candles (vs.5)
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

Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19

* Matthew 1: 18-25

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Joseph the Forgotten One"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" ...M. Praetorius

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 wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him; give my heart.

*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: #79 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*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: Barbara Backensto

USHERS: Steve Tarasuk, Len Kesselring

LAY READER: Mike Reiniger

Scriptures

Psalms 80: 1 – 7, 17 - 19 NRSV

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- ² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
- ³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- ¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
- ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Matthew 1: 18 - 25 NRSV

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.



PLEASE NOTE!

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

BES

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our wonderful volunteers who gave their time, food donations, monetary donations and toiletries to the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter on Friday, December 9th. Our dinner was a success! We served 58 guests a dinner consisting of Chicken Tater Bake, salad, bread and a wonderful array of desserts. Breakfast bags were prepared for the guests to ensure that they had some food to eat until the shelter reopened the next day at 5:00 p.m. It is such a joy to see our Church family come together to help those less fortunate, especially at this time of year that is difficult for so many. Bethany's kindness is very much appreciated by our guests. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all and I look forward to serving with you again in February!

Sherry Gangwere



2022 Giving

Remember that all giving to be credited to 2022 must be received by December 31st.

Sponsor a Bill

*Last week we had the pianos tuned here at Bethany. One of the tunings has been sponsored, if you are interested in sponsoring the second, please let me know. The cost for each is \$110.25. Thank you,
Debbie*

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.

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.

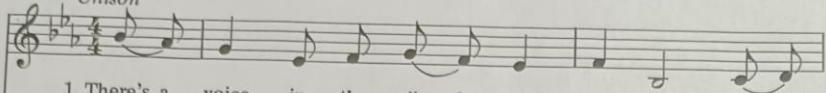


There's a Voice in the Wilderness

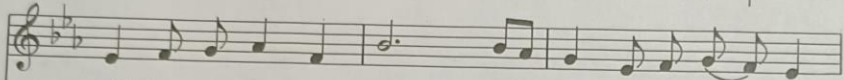
Isa. 40:3-11

J. Lewis Milligan, 1930

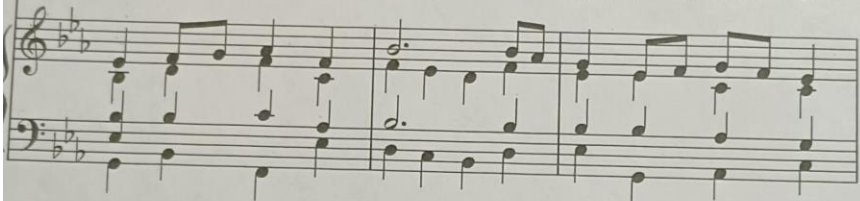
Unison

ASCENSION Irregular
Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1938

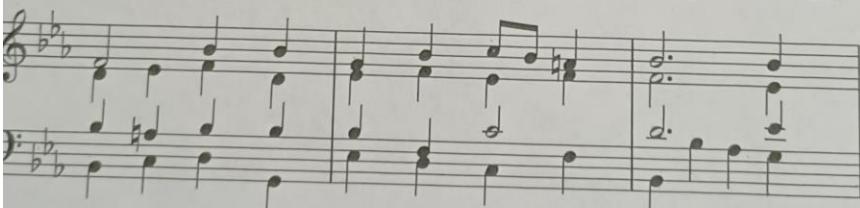
1. There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2. O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3. But the word of our God en - dur - eth, the

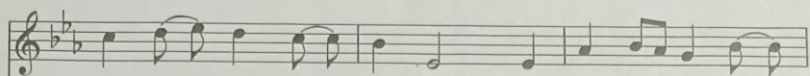


call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the de - sert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; He stands in the midst of

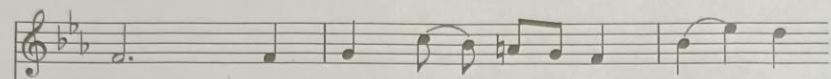
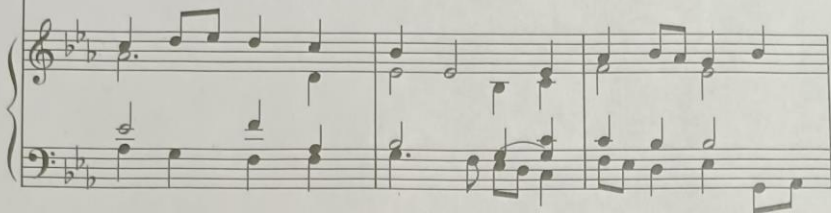


high - way, a high - way for our God! The
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

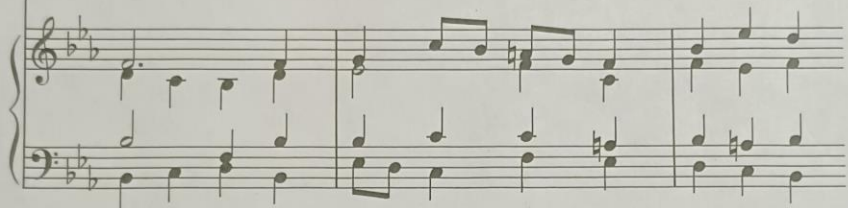




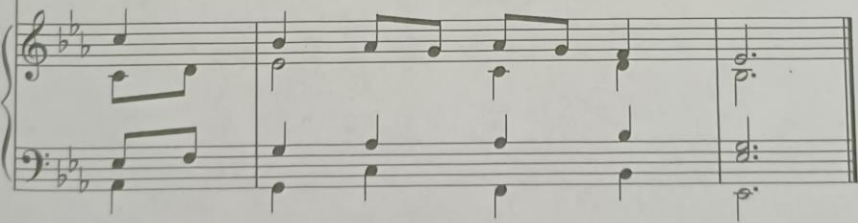
val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought
 flowers of the field they per - ish, the works of men de -
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, and fold the lambs to his



low: make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces
 cay, the power and pomp of na - tions
 breast: in pas - tures of peace he'll lead them,



where the Lord our God may go!
 shall pass like a dream a - way.
 and give to the wea - ry rest.



Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Second Tune

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Melody attr. to

Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, 1715

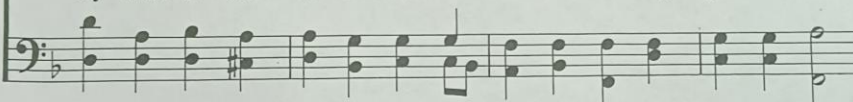
Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.



1. Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Is-rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and yet a king!
4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
 Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to thy glo - rious throne



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary as we light the fourth candle. Please join us as we listen to the Handbell Choir prelude. If you are able, please help us as we set up for Christmas Eve.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal
6:30PM Brass Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve!

7:30PM Musicians report
8PM Prelude Begins
8:30PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 Merry Christmas!

Enjoy this day with Family and Friends as we celebrate the Christ Child's Birth!

