

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

E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: 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, 2022

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

“Still, Still, Still” ... Trad. Austrian, arr. S. Wilson
Piano – Cindy Cressman

“In Dulci Jubilo/ O Come All Ye Faithful”
Woodwinds - Jenna, Kaitlin and Erin Nguyen

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Banjo – Bob Ruhe

“Ding, Dong, Merrily on High” ...arr. E. H. Geer
“Venite Adoremus” ...arr. R. Artman
Handbells

“Sing We Now of Christmas” ...Old French Carol
Chancel Choir

” What Child is This?” ...arr. Smith/ Hustad
Piano /Organ Rebecca Kesselring/ Susan Wright

“I Saw Three Ships” ...English Carol Chancel Choir

“O Come All Ye Faithful & The First Nowell” Two Carols
Handbell Choir & Congregation
Join us by singing the first verse of these familiar carols!

“O Christmas Tree” ...German Folk Song
Chancel Choir

“Silent Night” ... F. Gruber arr. Smith/Hustad
Piano/ Organ Rebecca Kesselring/ Susan Wright

“Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella” Trad. ... T. Waldrop
Choir Chimes

PRELUDE: “Come Run, Ye Shepherds” ...arr. H. Hopson
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: #189 “Angels From the Realms of
Glory” Brass Quartet and Organ

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**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: "Glory Be to God in Heaven" ...Old French
Carol, arr. F. W. Snow Chancel Choir

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

CAROL: #191 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
Brass

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-20 Len Kesselring

MEDITATION: "God in the Straw"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY "The Innkeeper's Carol" ...arr. D. Eddleman
Chancel Choir

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

ANTHEM: "Hush, the Baby is Sleeping" ...K. Kaiser
Chancel Choir

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING CAROL: # 179 "Joy to the World"
Brass Quartet and Organ

*POSTLUDE "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
Brass Quartet

Our worship ends, our service begins!

*Please leave your plastic candle holders in the basket in the
narthex 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 Brass Quartet, Chris Rumble and Lisa Williams on Trumpet and Tim Rumble and Todd Fennell on Trombone and Instrumental Soloists, Cindy Cressman on Piano, Bob Ruhe on Banjo and Jenna, Kaitlin and Erin Nguyen on Woodwinds. Your time and talent are greatly appreciated by this congregation.



*FROM US TO YOU... MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Dan and Margy Sabetti

Ken and Cindy Beck

The Reiniger Family

Sharon and Philip Haines

George and Judy Morgan

Jack and Diane Brunner

Ina Denninger

Sue, Tom, Meghann and Katie Wright

Doris Esslinger

The Backensto Family

Deborah L Young
C Walter Long
Wendy Glassic
Debbie Brown



2021 POINSETTIA DONATIONS

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

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

- Herbert & Catherine Yost by the Rumble Family
- William & Carolyn Rumble by the Rumble Family
- Our Parents by Barbara & Mike Reiniger
- Loved ones by Pastor Todd and Jean Fennell
- Robert Hoffert, husband/father, by Geraldine & Tom Hoffert
- Linda Hoffert, daughter/sister, by Geraldine & Tom Hoffert
- Bonnie & Tom Stout by the Stout and Ortwein Families
- Catherine Knipe by the Stout and Ortwein Families
- Bobbie and Leonard Kesselring Sr. by Len and Rebecca Kesselring
- Edward and DeMaris Stanley by Len and Rebecca Kesselring
- Ruth Bowers, mother of Debbie Keretz by Linda Trainor, LT Cleaning
- Margaret Ruhe, my auntie, by Charleen Bishop

- Elizabeth Johnson, my mama, by Charleen Bishop
- Family members by Debbie Brown
- IN HONOR OF:
- Sue and Tom Wright for their love and friendship by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.
- Bev and Bill Rumble for their love and friendship by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.
- Sue Wright for her outstanding gift of music to Bethany UCC by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.
- Our 5 children and 8 grandchildren by Gail & Dave Correll
- My parents, family, and friends. You are loved.
Debbie Brown

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 father Thomas Wright Jr. and sister Teresa Ann Latteman by Tom Wright and family

- 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
- Wayne K., Love of my Life and Richard “Rich” Light of my Life by Linda Hollabaugh

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, watch - 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.

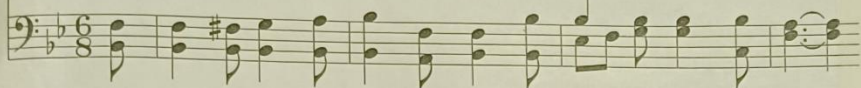
*Please join us on Sunday January 1st as we
 celebrate the New Year with carols and stories. We
 look forward to seeing you!*

*Remember end of the year giving must be received
 by December 31st.*

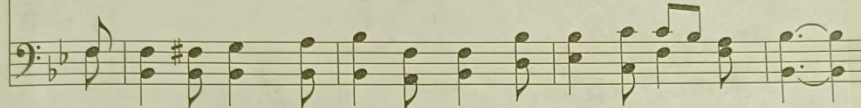
It Came upon the Midnight Clear 191



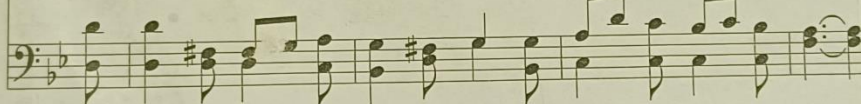
- 1 It came up-on the mid- night clear, that glo- rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo- ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un- furled,
- 3 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



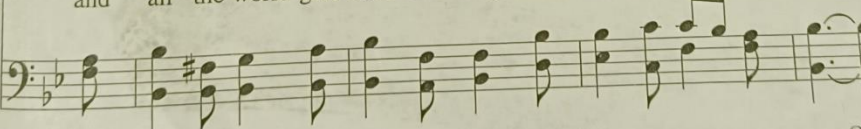
from an- gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu- sic floats o'er all the wea- ry world;
when, with the ev - er - cir- cling years, shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, from heaven's all gra - cious King":
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling.



the world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



Silent Night! Holy Night!

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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,

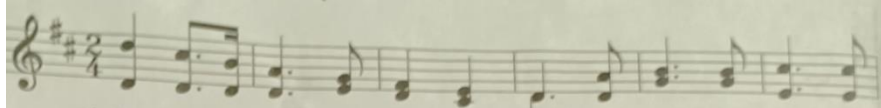
'round yon vir - gin moth-er and child; ho - ly in-fant, so ten-der and
 glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu -
 ra - dant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

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.

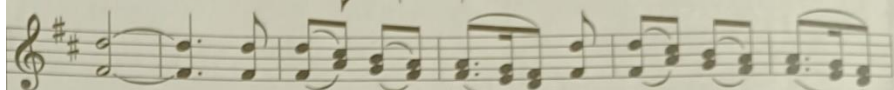
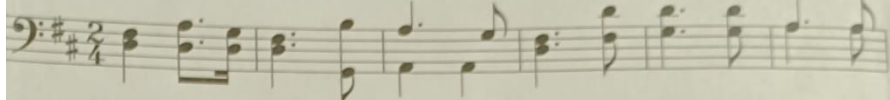
*Please let Debbie or Margy know that you are
picking up your Poinsettia.*

*Remember there will be no church service on
Christmas Day and the office will be closed on
Monday, Dec. 26th.*

Joy to the World!



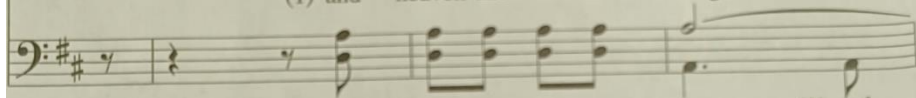
1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions



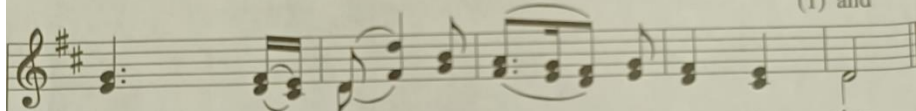
King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,



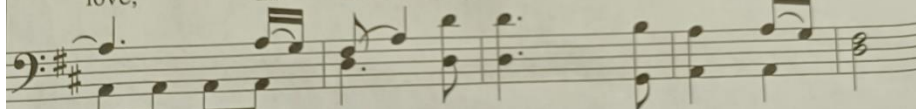
and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 (1) and heaven and na - ture sing,



(1) and



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,