

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

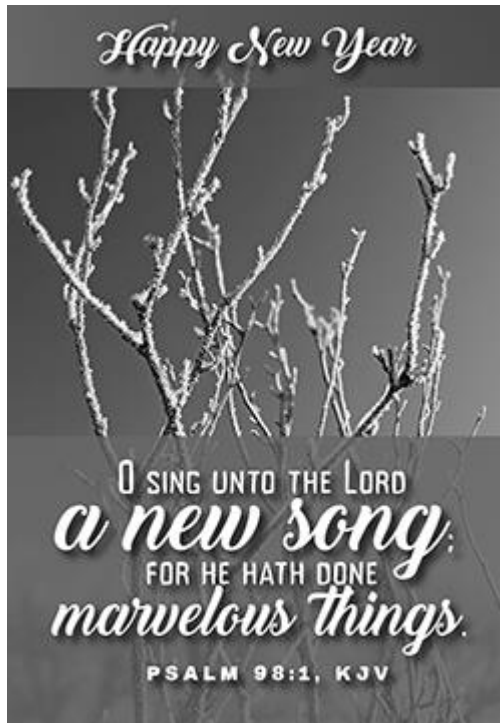
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



January 1, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

“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 1, 2023

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: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" ...G. M. Martin
Piano /Organ Duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us sing praise to the God of all creation.

P: Let us sing praise to the Spirit who gives life to all.

L: Let us sing praise to Jesus Christ, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

P: That everything and everyone in all creation might be reconciled with God through Christ.

*HYMN: #182 O Come All Ye Faithful

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Living and Loving God, moved by the coming of Jesus to our lives, we seek to be your people. Help us to live in faithful covenant with you and with one another. Let the peace of Christ guide us, and let His Message in all its riches live in our hearts, that we may praise You without ceasing. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #179 joy to the World vs.1

Joy to the world! The lord is come; let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 2: 10-18

* John 1: 1-18

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

CHRISTMAS GIFT STORIES AND CAROLS (See center page)

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

...arr. T. Smith

*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

God of life and love, Savior of all, receive with these gifts our gratitude for Your guidance, penitence for our pride and dedication to Your service in Jesus 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: #218 Go Tell it On the Mountain

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #225 I Wonder as I Wander vs. 1
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are presented in honor of Ted and Marion Hendricks as they begin the next year of their lives by their family.

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

LAY READER: Diane Diefenderfer

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains; and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains: Gloria in excelsis Deo (repeat)

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! (repeat)

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed; the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

God rest ye, merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay. Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day; to save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Son of Mary. Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the

Scriptures

Hebrews 2: 10 - 18 NRSV

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation, I will praise you." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered; he is able to help those who are being tested.

John 1: 1 - 18 NRSV

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose

name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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.

After Christmas Choir Party

The after Christmas Choir Party will be held on Wed. January 11th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. Please see the signup sheet in the choir room.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

CHRISTMAS

182

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Parts

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 Happy New Year!

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary as we celebrate with
Carols and Stories.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 Epiphany Sunday

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the
arrival of the Magi as well as Holy Communion!

