

# **BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:00-1:00

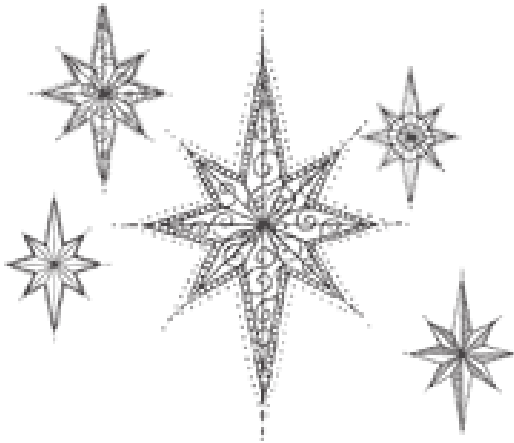
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**Web address:** [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President  
Susan Wright, Director of Music



**December 24, 2023**

**Christmas Eve**

“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, 2023      Christmas Eve      8:00PM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of  
Worship. May this be a time of blessing for you.

**(\*) PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**  
**(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

## Prelude Music

“To Us Is Born Immanuel” ... M. Praetorius  
Chancel Choir

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice” ...arr. A. L. Page  
Piano – Rebecca Kesselring/ Organ Susan Wright

“One Star Brightly Shining” ...Jerry Lee Miller  
Native American Flute & Vocal – Jerry Lee Miller

“Joseph, Dearest, Joseph Mine” ...14<sup>th</sup> C. German Carol  
Choir Chimes

“As Lately We Watched” ...Austrian Carol  
Chancel Choir

” God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” ...Trad. English  
Woodwinds – Jenna, Kaitlin and Erin Nguyen

“Come All Ye Shepherds” & “Joy to the World” (Two  
Carols)                      Handbell Choir

“All My Heart Today Rejoices” ...J. G. Eberling  
When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great  
joy. – Matthew 2:10  
Chancel Choir

“Angels We Have Heard on High” ...arr. Hustad/Smith  
Piano -Rebecca Kesselring/ Organ – Susan Wright

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” ... T.R. Matthews  
Chancel Choir

“What Child is This” (Greensleeves)... Eng. Folk tune  
Banjo – Robert Ruhe Flute – Meghann Wright

PRELUDE: “Away in A Manger” ...arr. D. E. Wagner  
Handbell 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: #182 “O Come all Ye Faithful”  
Bethany Instrumental Ensemble

\*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: “Star Carol” ...Hutson/Burt Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: Pastor Todd and  
Jean Fennell

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.**

CAROL: #180 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
Bethany Instrumental Ensemble

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-20 Len Kesselring

MEDITATION: "A Backstreet Christmas"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY "One Star" ...Albrecht/Albright  
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: “Mary Was Wondering” ...Davoll arr. C. Wyrzten  
Chancel Choir

\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: #186 “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING CAROL: # 185 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”  
Bethany Instrumental Ensemble

\*POSTLUDE “Joy to the World”  
Bethany Instrumental Ensemble

***Our worship ends, our service begins!***



**Advent Wreath:** Pastor Todd and Jean Fennell

**Ushers:** Tom Wright, Len Kesselring, Jack Brunner

**Lay reader:** Len Kesselring

**Bulletins:** are placed to honor the birth of the Christ Child – our Savior by Len and Rebecca Kesselring.

*A Heartfelt thank you to all of our Bethany Musicians – Our Handbell & Choir Chime Choir, Our Chancel Choir, and Our Instrumental Ensemble, Chris Rumble and Lisa Williams on Trumpet, Meghann Wright on Alto Sax, Tim Rumble and Todd Fennell on Trombone our Woodwind trio, Jenna(Clarinet), Kaitlin(Flute), and Erin(Bassoon) Nguyen, Jerry Lee Miller vocal and Native American flute, Robert Ruhe on Banjo Rebecca Kesselring on piano, Meghann Wright on recorder & flute, and Susan Wright on piano, organ & tambourine. 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  
Ina Denninger  
Sue, Tom, Meghann and Katie Wright  
Wendy Glassic  
Debbie Brown  
And Flash!*

## **2023 POINSETTIA DONATIONS**

### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

- Herbert & Catherine Yost by the Rumble Family
- Bill & Carolyn Rumble by the Rumble Family
- Our Parents by Barbara & Mike Reiniger
- 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 DaMaris Stanley by Len and Rebecca Kesselring
- Loved Ones by Marion & Ted Hendricks

- Rev. Dr. Donald C. Esslinger by Rev. Dr. Denise Esslinger and Phil Parizeau
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Young by daughter Deborah Young
- David & Andrew Young by sister Deborah Young
- Loved Ones by Judy & George Morgan
- Joe & Marie Wolfe by their daughter Marcie
- Catherine & Walter Williams by Anne & Walter Williams
- Dorothy & Richard Miller by Matt, Susanne & Jacob Miller
- Our Parents by Margy & Dan Sabetti
- Dolly my wife of 56 years by her husband Fred
- 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, in loving gratitude for the outstanding music program at Bethany UCC by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.
- And gratitude to the members of Bethany UCC who support the mission of the church to ensure a continued warm inviting atmosphere of Christian love for our community seeking the love of Christ through worship and Christian fellowship by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.
- All our children and grandchildren Love, Mom & Dad (Pappy Dave & Grammy Gail)
- Rev. C. Walter Long by Deborah Young
- All and a Merry Christmas from Barry & Ruth Smith
- 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 memory of our Parents by Ken and Cindy Beck
- In Memory of Loved Ones by Pastor Todd and Jean Fennell
- In Memory of Les and Joanne Albaugh, Elvin and Mabel Bennyhoff, Thomas and Helen Fritz by Minh, Lisa, Jenna, Kaitlin, & Erin Nguyen and John Albaugh.

In memory of Wayne and Lois Shelly by their daughter, Nedra

- In honor of Bill Rumble with thanks for recording and emailing our services by a Grateful Congregation

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

*Please join us on Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> to hear Pastor Todd and wish him well in his next journey through life!*

*Remember end of the year giving must be received by December 24<sup>st</sup>.*



# O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

180

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by,  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love,  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

## 185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb;  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."

## Silent Night! Holy Night! 186

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 you 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-diant 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.