



Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church The Nativity of Our Lord



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2017
10:00 pm

Welcome! *We are glad you are here to worship with us today. There is a rocking chair in the rear of the sanctuary; please feel free to sit there with your child. We hope you find Bethel a sanctuary of peace.*

Tonight as we celebrate the Lord's Supper...all are welcome. If you would prefer not to receive communion, you may come forward and receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. Please note that both wine and grape juice are available as well as gluten free wafers. The words to all the hymns are printed here. If you would like to see the music, the number is listed for the LBW (green hymnal).

Carol Singing

Invocation *Occom's Carol* by Samson Occom performed by Timmy Straw and PJ Bentley

Samson Occom (born 1723), a member of the Mohegan Nation, studied for the ministry and became a Presbyterian cleric; after his death in 1792 he left behind several theological texts (sermons, poems, essays) of which this hymn is one.

O sight of Anguish, view it near
What weeping innocence is here
A manger for his bed.
The brutes yield refuge to his woe;
Man, the worse brute, no pity shows,
Nor give him friendly aid.

Did he, that infant bathed in tears
Call into form the rolling spheres?
Did seraphs wait his nod?
Helpless he calls, but man delays,
The moral chaos disobeys
The offspring of a God.

Redemption! tis a boundless theme!
Thou boundless mind our hearts
in flame
With ardor from above.
Words are but faint, let joy express,
Vain is mere joy, let actions bless
This prodigy of love.

Why do no rapid thunders roll?
Why do no tempests rock the pole?
O miracle of grace!
Or why no angel on the wing,
Warm for the honours of their King,
To extirpate all the race.

Say, radiant seraphs throned in light,
Did love e'er tower so high a flight?
Or glory sink so low?
This wonder angels scarce declare
Angels the rapture scarce can bear,
Or equal praise bestow.

Prelude *Baroque Christmas Festival -- Choir*

Opening Litany

P: Christ is born, give glory

C: Christ comes from heaven, meet him.

P: Christ is on earth, be exalted

C: O all the earth, sing unto the Lord and sing praises in gladness,

P: O all you people, for he has been glorified.

W:Wisdom and Word and Power.

M:Christ our is the Son and the brightness of the Father,

W:Unknown to the powers above and upon the earth

M:Christ became a man and so has won us back again

All: for he has been glorified!

Opening Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful (LBW 45)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels: *Refrain*

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Welcome Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir What Child is This arranged by RJ Batastini (The Congregation is invited to join in)

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?

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

Refrain

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem vs 1,3 (LBW 41)

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.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn Away in the Manger (LBW 67)

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

The cattle are lowing; the baby
awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying
he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look
down from the sky and stay by
my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you
to stay
close by me forever and love
me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in
your tender care and fit us for
heaven, to live with you there.

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Hymn 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; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong: What the gladsome tidings be?
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new born king. Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Joy to the World (LBW 39)

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|---|--|
| 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let earth receive its King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing. | 3. No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love. |

Offering

Special Music

Prayers of the People

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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

Eucharistic Prayer

When lighting your candle, please leave the lit candle upright and dip the unlit candle into the flame

Lighting of the Candles

Sharing

Special Music Night of Darkness--Choir Silent Night—Congregation (LBW 65)

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|--|--|---|
| 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and
child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace. | 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born! | 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming
grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. |
|--|--|---|

As the lights come up, please extinguish candles.

Distribution of Holy Communion and Blessings

Hymn Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (LBW 68)

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mil
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Refrain

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Refrain

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hymn

Holy Child within the
Manger

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry
stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.
As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us
out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -
spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Hymn

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve (LBW 69)

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|--|---|--|
| 1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone
forth, and angels sang on earth. | 3 He dwells again in heaven's realm,
the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones
and hears them when they pray. | 5 And so I love each Christmas
Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true. |
| 2 The little child in Bethlehem,
he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n
above to help a world in need. | 4 I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child
the palace of the king. | |

Announcements

Benediction

Sending

Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain (LBW 70)

Refrain

- | | |
|---|---|
| Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born! | 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. <i>Refrain</i> | 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. <i>Refrain</i> |

Sharing of Peace





Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all. We are glad you are here and we pray God will be real to you as you worship. Bethel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Knowing God loves all creation and holds us all, we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors.

Bethel Lutheran practices open communion. All who feel invited to share in this meal are welcome. It is not Bethel's table or a Lutheran table, it is Christ's table and invitation. If you prefer not to receive communion at this time, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing only, just fold your arms across your chest. Wine is in the taller chalice and grape juice in the shorter chalice, also, gluten-free bread is available.

Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. A gender neutral restroom is located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

<u>Prayer Requested for:</u>	<u>Prayer Concern:</u>	<u>Prayer Contact:</u>
Bertha Anderson	Prayers for healing	Karen Anderson
For all victims of hate speech and prejudice	Peace and healing	Bethel Staff
Baby Dot Keener	Prayers for healing and guidance for the family and doctors	Joann Noll
Prayers that immigrant workers be treated justly by employers, supervisors, fellow workers and all who are in a position of advantages over these workers	Prayers for peace and justice	Bethel Sanctuary Justice Team
Skip Getman	Prayers of peace and comfort as he battles cancer	Bethel Players and Congregation
Judy Merchant and family in Iowa	Prayers for peace and comfort as Judy prepares to go home to her Lord	Mary Rix
Vance Burghard	Prayers for support and healing as he works through medical issues	The Burghard/Moody family
Steve Greenfelt	Prayers for peace and comfort as her battles brain cancer	Pr. Mike
Dennis Mitchell	Prayers of healing and comfort as his throat cancer has returned	Stephanie Burdick
Family and Friends of Deb Cornils (Karen Anderson's favorite college roommate)	Prayers for peace and comfort upon the death of Deb	Karen Anderson
Dale Tersey (JulieAnn and Marlo Edman's son-in-law)	Prayers of healing and comfort as he battles a very rare and potentially aggressive form of cancer	JulieAnn Edman
Timothy Collins (JulieAnn's good friend)	Prayers of healing and comfort as he battles a very rare and potentially aggressive form of cancer	JulieAnn Edman
Family and friends of Betty Hahn (Mary Rix's Mother)	Prayers for God's peace following Betty's death Monday 12/11	Bethel Staff



Bethel Lutheran Church

5658 N Denver Ave. Portland OR 97217
503.285.4919 www.bethelpdx.org

Ministers of Bethel are All Baptized Members of Bethel
Bethel Pastors are: Pastor Michael Keys and Pastor Christine
Music Director is Timmy Straw
Choir director is Sarah Goff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Up:

**Mon. Dec 25:
Christmas Brunch for Neighborhood**

**Sat. Dec 30:
Neighborhood Hygiene Program**

**December 31:
Community Breakfast 9am
Worship 10am**

**Sun Jan 7:
Worship Epiphany**



\$\$\$ **Bethel Year End Finances** \$\$\$

First, thank you all for your generosity and support for all our ministry throughout 2017. We have and will continue to impact the lives of many through our witness to the Gospel in worship, formation service and family care.

As year-end approaches, we have a couple of financial opportunities (or challenges) to resolve. Giving has been slightly down this year and we are facing a deficit of over \$ 8,000. It is important to work at resolving this before we move into 2018, we prefer not using our reserves.

We want you to know the donations made through January 7th that are dated December 2017 will be counted as a 2017 donation. If you need information on your 2017 giving or the estimate of giving for the year, please contact Karen Anderson and she can get you the information. You can leave a message at the church office: 503-285-4919.

SAVE THE DATE!

January 28th is the Annual

Meeting and Potluck



A HUGE thank you to everyone who made this year's Angel Project a success. It makes a big difference in the lives of these families during this special time of year.



Laundry is my Life!

Help is always appreciated for laundry generated each week by the Drop-In Center and the Sunday Morning Breakfast Service. Stop by after any Sunday worship service and talk to Nash. He'll supply you with a basket full of wet and soiled towels. A capful of detergent, a splash of bleach and return the basket with clean and folded towels is all it takes.

Thank you and your laundry facilities. Know that St. Hunna, who died in 679 and who is the patron saint of laundry workers is smiling down on you with the deepest affection.

Burrrr! It's cold outside and The Bethel Hygiene Program is low on many critical wintertime supplies.

Would you help out with a donation or clothing or funds? We need:

- Jeans! Lots of jeans! New or gently used long pants that are thick, warm and sturdy. Men's and women's needed.
- Weather proof jackets for both men and women
- Warm winter socks for men and women
- Underwear for men and women, size medium
- Leggings and sweatpants
- Sweatshirts and sweaters for men and women
- Long underwear for men and women
- Belts
- Boots of common sizes

Thank you! Robin Moody 503-381-2489

