

# Welcome to Bethel

December 24th, 2017

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church. We are glad you are here and we pray God will be real to you as you worship. Bethel 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. We welcome everyone and honor the rich diversity and giftedness that age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships.

### PRELUDE

### OPENING HYMN

### Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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.

**Bethel Lutheran Church**

5658 N Denver Ave. Portland OR 97217 ~ 503.285.4919 ~ [www.bethellutheran.com](http://www.bethellutheran.com)

ADVENT LITANY

Isaiah 63  
P: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
**C: the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,**  
P: because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
**C: and the great favor to the house of Israel**  
P: that he has shown them according to his mercy  
**C: according to the abundance of his steadfast love.**

STIR UP... A Message for the Children

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH


ADVENT WREATH HYMN

Candle of Peace (Verse 1-4)

1

Slowly

2



1. Can-dle of hope,

can - dle of hope,

the

2. Can-dle of peace,

can - dle of peace,

the

3. Can-dle of joy,

can - dle of joy,

the

4. Can-dle of love,

can - dle of love,

the


5. Can-dle of Christ,

can - dle of Christ,

the

5

Next group enters here for round



hope of God we see in your light,


peace of God we see in your light,

joy of God we see in your light,

love of God we see in your light,

Christ of God we see in your light,

7



com - ing to earth on that Christ - mas night when


com - ing to earth on that Christ - mas night when

com - ing to earth on that Christ - mas night when

com - ing to earth on that Christ - mas night when

com - ing to earth on this Christ - mas night when

9



all of our flames will be burn - ing bright.

all of our flames will be burn - ing bright.

all of our flames will be burn - ing bright.

all of our flames will be burn - ing bright.

all of our flames\_\_\_\_\_ are burn - ing bright.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.


P: Word of God, Word of Life  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship of Service	Today:	Next week - Dec 31
Ministers:	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor:	Pastor Michael Keys	Pastor Michael Keys
Pastor:	Pastor Christine Core	Pastor Christine Core
Musician:	Timmy Straw	Timmy Straw
Usher:	Ronda Bard	OPEN
Reader:	Naso Michaels	OPEN
Communion:	Tammy Gover	Gary Morris


Our welcome extends to the Communion Table. We recognize that this is Christ's Table and Christ's invitation. Please come forward as you are invited. If you prefer not to receive Communion at this time, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – just fold your arms across your chest so that we know you prefer a blessing. Wine is served from the first chalice; grape juice is served from the second. We also offer gluten-free bread and individual cups of wine.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL


Verse 5




1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



*Refrain*  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

GOSPEL


Luke 1:39-45

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."


P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN


Canticle of the Turning




1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -




God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -




won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

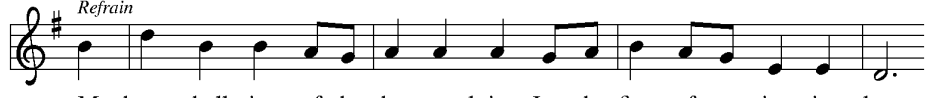


weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be




name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER    (We join hands as we pray as we have been taught)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

DISTRIBUTION AND BLESSING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice




1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth,  
Bring joy to your hearts this day and always.

**Amen**

May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you,  
Fill your life with love and peace.

**Amen**

May Emmanuel, God with us,  
Be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations,  
Until he brings you into his eternal realm.

**Amen**

And may almighty God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
Bless you now and forever.

**Amen**





SENDING HYMN

I Wonder as I Wander

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how  
2 When Mar - y birthed . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came  
3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a  
4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for  
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and  
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or  
Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for

poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like you and like I. I  
high from the heav - ens a star's light did fall; the  
all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to sing, he  
poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like you and like I. I

won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.  
prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.  
sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.  
won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.



# Advent Emphasis

## Glimmers of Hope

Boise, Idaho  
[ELCA.org/hunger](http://ELCA.org/hunger)

At Boise Rescue Mission Ministries (BRMM) the meal is the first step.

“A warm meal can offer that first glimmer of hope,” says BRNN President and CEO Bill Roscoe. “From there BRNN is able to address the root cause of homelessness and work with individuals to break the cycle of homelessness and transition to independent living.”

In his more than 25 years of ministry, Bill has come to see that homelessness is not an isolated issue. That’s why he insists on a holistic approach -- addressing barriers to employment, untreated mental illness, spiritual thirst and more.

At five facilities in Southwest Idaho, BRMM offers three meals a day; emergency services like shelter, clothing and showers; employment programs; mental health services; a children’s program; and drug and alcohol addiction recovery programs. In 2016, the mission served 347,477 meals, and provided 144,930 warm beds, handed out 72,400 articles of clothing and helped 600 individuals transition from homelessness to independent living. BRMM’s work is supported by ELCA World Hunger.

Craig is a participant in BRMM’s programs. Some of Craig’s earliest memories are of growing up in a home where substance abuse was the norm. By the time he was 12, he was using drugs and alcohol. As an adult, he spent years living either in jail or on the streets. When he came to BRMM, it was for an immediate need.

“I didn’t have any money, Craig says. “I came to the Mission to eat”

That meal led to something much bigger.

“That plate of food did more than just quiet Craig’s growling stomach,” Bill says. “It spoke to his soul and opened the door to three of our other key ministry areas that have profoundly changed his life”

Now, Craig not only has a safe place to live, but he is in recovery and has a relationship with GOD.

Your support of ELCA World Hunger helps make programs like these possible. Thank you.

**See Advent/Hunger Materials at the back of the church.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

#### TONIGHT

5pm - Family Friendly Service with Holy Communion

10 pm with a Musical Prelude of Carols at 9:30



### **Children's Library has expanded!!**

We've added a few more titles to the children's book section in the Fireside Room. Come check out the new books on the bookshelves ... *The Holy Moly Christmas Story*, *God Made Feelings*, *God's Great Big World*, and *Maybe God is Like That Too* are among the new titles.



### **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.