

Welcome the Darkness Light in the Darkness

December 2, 2018

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

YOUR PASTORS

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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

We Gather Together

Welcome

For the Darkness Litany (Adapted from an Anglican Litany, 1986)

For the darkness of waiting
Of not knowing what is to come
Of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of staying silent
For the terror of having nothing to say
And for the greater terror
Of needing to say nothing,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of loving
In which it is safe to surrender
To let go of our self-protection
And to stop holding back our desire,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of choosing
When you give us the moment
To speak, and act, and change,
And we cannot know what we have set in
motion, but we still have to take the risk,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of hoping
In a world which longs for you,
For the wrestling and laboring of all creation
For wholeness and justice and freedom,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. A gender neutral restroom 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.

Gathering Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Greeting

The grace of our Redeemer, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



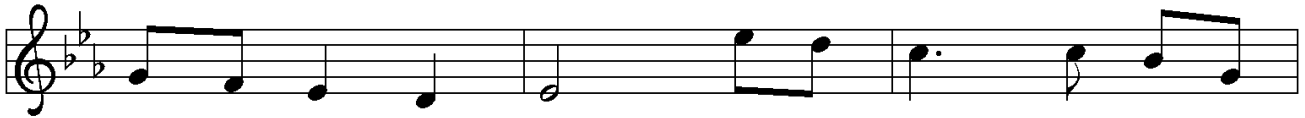
Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Salutation

God be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, give us grace and courage to walk with you in the darkness life gives us, knowing that the coming of your Son and the warmth of your embrace is the basis of our hope and faith. Center our gaze each moment on Jesus, Emmanuel, who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

We Hear God's Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

P: Hear the Word of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



For Light *by John O'Donohue*

Light cannot see inside things.
That is what the dark is for:
Minding the interior,
Nurturing the draw of growth
Through places where death
In its own way turns into life.

In the glare of neon times,
Let our eyes not be worn
By surfaces that shine
With hunger made attractive.

That our thoughts may be true light,
Finding their way into words
Which have the weight of shadow
To hold the layers of truth.

That we never place our trust
In minds claimed by empty light,
Where one-sided certainties
Are driven by false desire.

When we look into the heart,
May our eyes have the kindness
And reverence of candlelight

That the searching of our minds
Be equal to the oblique
Crevices and corners where
The mystery continues to dwell,
Glimmering in fugitive light.

When we are confined inside
The dark house of suffering
That moonlight might find a window.

When we become false and lost
That the severe noon-light
Would cast our shadow clear.

When we love, that dawn-light
Would lighten our feet
Upon the waters.

As we grow old, that twilight
Would illuminate treasure
In the fields of memory.

And when we come to search for God,
Let us first be robed in night,
Put on the mind of morning
To feel the rush of light
Spread slowly inside
The color and stillness
Of a found word.

Gospel Acclamation



O - so - sǒ o - so - sǒ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gǔm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sǒ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the twenty first chapter.

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable:

"Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P: This is the Gospel of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.



Children's Message "The Story of Hanukkah" by David A. Adler

"Light in the Darkness" - Ryan Burghard

Hymn of the Day

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Prayers of the People (We respond after each petition.)

God of darkness and light, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



WE CELEBRATE THE MEAL

Offering

Offering Music

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Guitar Solo, Finn Lambourn

Offertory Prayer

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen

Advent Eucharistic Prayer

May God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our duty and delight to offer our thanks and praise in this Advent season of lengthening nights and increasing darkness reminding us that there is nowhere you are not, that darkness is as light to you.
We praise you, God of day and God of darkness.

God of day and God of darkness, you offer us the gifts of darkness hidden from our eyes.
We praise you for the gifts of night.

God of chaos and God of creation, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the darkness bringing all that is into being.
Brood over our present darkness with your power.

God of stars and God of candles, Abraham and Sarah lay in the barren sand pondering the stars of heaven to hear the promise: so numerous shall your descendants be.
We praise you for the gifts of promise hidden in the stars.

God of sleep and God of dreams, Jacob lay his head upon a rock at Bethel and dreamed of angels ascending and descending on a ladder to heaven.
Surely God is in this place and we did not know it!

God of night and God of liberation, our Hebrew ancestors fled Egypt in the dark led by a pillar of fire and a cloud. Through the dark sea, you led your people on foot while walls of water stood on either side.
We praise you for your Passover from death to life.

We praise and thank you, God of day and God of darkness for your gifts in this season:
(All sing from "Slowly, Slowly the Evening Falls")

Praise the God of the evening, Mother of the fertile dark.
Praise the God of the silence in the void between the stars.
Send your Holy Shadows, cover us O God of might.
Make us whole and keep us in the womb of the night.

In the darkest of time you sent bright angels to shepherds watching their flocks by night announcing good news of great joy.

We praise you for the advent of your son, Jesus.

He shared our days and our darkness. He brought sight to the blind and life to the listless. He preached good news to the poor. He brought the empire of the heavens near. He planted the seeds of our presence in the dark soil of history.

We praise you for the mystery of life germinating in our midst.

In the night in which he was betrayed it was dark. Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this to remember me."

Come, Lord Jesus. Feed us with this bread of heaven.

In the same way he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Take and drink. This is my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin and the healing of the world. Do this to remember me."

Come, Lord Jesus. Nourish us with this cup of salvation.

We praise you for raising Jesus from the dark tomb bringing life and light to our world.

Our souls awaken in our tombs at your coming.

Send your Holy Shadow. Cover us, O God of night.

Come, Holy Spirit, make us whole and keep us in the womb of your love.

Join our prayers with all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

We join our voices in the prayer Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer *(alternative version by Parker J. Palmer, 1991)*

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.**



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.

Invitation to Communion

Speak to us, O God, in the breaking of the bread and make us one with you.

Communion Distribution

All are welcome to come to the feast.

Communion Hymn

Bread of Life from Heaven



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Prayer After Communion *(from Night Visions by Jan L. Richardson)*

Holy One, You meet us in our hungering with manna not of our making, and in our thirsting you surprise us with unexpected wine. You are the source of our desiring and the end of all our longing. O Giver of the feast, and ever-present guest, blessed be. Amen

We Go Out to Serve

Announcements

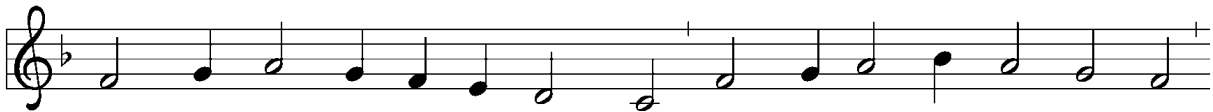
Blessing

Sending Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Dismissal

Go in peace to dispel the darkness.

Thanks be to God.

Stewardship of Service	Today - Dec 2	Next Week - Dec 9
Ministers:	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor:	Pr. Christine Core	Pr. Christine Core
Pastor:	Pr. Terry Moe	Pr. Terry Moe
Musician:	LeAnn Michaels	LeAnn Michaels
Musician:	Finn Lambourn	
Usher:	Joe Tancredi	
Reader:	Meghan Cyr	Naso Micheals
Communion:		Joann and Emily Noll
Preparation of the Altar:	Jackie Calder	Jackie Calder

Prayer Requested For:	Prayer Concern:	Prayer Contact:
For all people who walk in the darkness, searching for meaning and treasures of the spirit.	Prayers of peace and comfort.	The People of Bethel
Jan Kimble	Prayers for healing and effective treatment for breast cancer.	Tammy Gover
Richard VanDyke	Prayers for healing and peace.	Jim VanDyke
Lori Fields	Prayers for courage and strength after stage 4 liver cancer diagnosis.	Karen Anderson
Marlo Edman	Prayers for continued healing for following surgery.	Pastor Christine
Pepe Rochon	Prayers for healing and comfort.	Faith St. John
Kyler Barret	Prayers for comfort. Kyler, Paul Govers nephew has Type 1 Diabetes.	Paul Gover
Family and friends of Brenda Cordway, Shirley Kolpin's Daughter	Prayers for comfort and peace following her death last Sunday.	Cate Milburn
The Delcambre Family	Prayers of peace and God's solace as they mourn the death of their infant son. Sharon has asked we let you, her Bethel family know how much your love and prayer has surrounded the family during this difficult and heartbreaking time.	Pastor Christine
Jerome Hershey	Prayers of healing and comfort following a diagnosis of acute myloid leukemia.	Pastor Christine
Barbara Lynch	Prayers for healing and peace following hospitalization for internal bleeding. Barbara will continue recovery at the home of her daughter and you may send your get well greetings to her at 803B NE 166th Ave., Vancouver, WA 08684	Pastor Christine
Friends and family of Audrey Plumb, Shirley Moore's sister	Prayers of peace and God's comfort following Audrey's death November 4. Send cards of condolence may be sent to Shirley at 2705 NW Garryanna Drive, #4, Corvallis, OR 97330	Pastor Christine
Our prayers continue for many among us: for Bertha Anderson, Dale Tersey, Timothy Collins, Elizabeth, Rob, Jacob Bard, Miles Bard, Annalu Lingnau, Ben Lingnau, Jr., Ben Lingnau III, David Lingnau, Mary Rix, Patricia Connor, Bob & Nancy Leon.		



Bethel News



Coming Up:

- Dec 5** | Advent Book Group - (3 Wed.) 12/5, 12/12 & 12/19 from 7 to 8:30 pm (Fireside Room)
- Dec 8** | Middle School Young Women's Christmas and Cookie Baking Party – 2 pm
At E'lee Milburn-Lambourn's home. Parents, check your email for details.
- Dec 10** | Bethel Discernment Team Meeting - 6:30 pm, Edman's home
- Dec 15** | Bethel Hygiene Program
- Dec 17** | Food Ministry Team Meeting - 6:30 pm, Fireside Room
- Dec 23** | Christmas Program - "Fumbly Bumbly Angels"
- Dec 24** | Children's Christmas Service 5 pm & Christmas Service 7 pm

Other News

Advent Book Group | (3 Wed.) 12/5, 12/12 & 12/19 from 7 to 8:30 pm (Fireside Rm)
Sign up online: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/WFMTK>

We'd like to invite you to an Advent Book Club. We will be reading selections from Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*.

One critic writes of Taylor's book "Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." She argues that we need to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.

While the entire book is worth exploring, we know this time of year produces busy calendars. We've picked a just a few pages to concentrate on. We urge you to purchase this book if you are able. It is for sale at your favorite on-line retail behemoth for as little as \$12.74 and at other retail behemoths in used conditions for as little as \$1.99. We can provide copies of the selections if you need them. Let one of the leaders know if you require them. Also check your local library.

- **12/5 | Introduction and Chapter 1 "Who's Afraid of the Dark?"**
- **12/12 | Chapter 4 "The Dark Emotions"**
- **12/19 | Chapter 7 "The Dark Night of the Soul"**

And of course, extra credit & a Hershey's Kiss will be awarded to anyone who manages to read the entire book during Advent.

Pastor Christine will lead the 12/5 gathering; JulieAnn Edman is the leader on 12/12 & 12/19.

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Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Bethel Lutheran Church when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0509108
Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>, select Bethel Lutheran Church as your charity of choice and Amazon will donate a small percentage for every dollar spent.

Bethel Choir | Rehearsing every Sunday at 9 am in the Bethel Sanctuary – JOIN US!



Food Ministry Team | Monday, December 17 at 6:30 pm

Please join us at the next meeting of the Food Ministry Team in the Fireside Room. Like many things Bethel, our Food Ministry program to the community started small, and has morphed into something we could not have envisioned – breakfast, hygiene, assistance for Drop-In families and many others who come to us for food assistance. But now it's time to put ourselves "on the balcony" and take a look, have authentic discussions and come to some consensus about what we can do as a congregation.

We will start with a bit of biblical work and discussion, and then move into the difficult tasks of envisioning for ourselves our long term goals for this out reach program. We expect to disagree and struggle and ponder how we best go forward in doing God's work in this world. We will also be chipping away at the "technical" challenges before us, but at this stage the bulk of our work is doing the adaptive work, including meaningful conversations with all of our stakeholders, necessary to provide the best programs possible.

Please join us. Please phone Team Leader Cate Milburn for more information: 971-269-9899.

Angel Project 2018

The Annual Bethel Angel Project is underway. Through the generosity of Bethel members and friends, we provide Christmas gifts for the children, something nice for Mom and/or Dad, and the fixings for a Christmas dinner for families who are in need.

We are adopting 10 families this year. These are families who have been identified either by the Pastors or by the Drop-In Center Director as possible recipients based on their economic situation.

In the past, an individual has adopted a family, a Bethel family or two or three have joined together to adopt a family, a group from your place of work might want to adopt a family, your extended family might want to adopt a family ... the possibilities are endless.

If adoption isn't up your alley, maybe you'd like to supply part of the Christmas Food Box. You can do this in a number of ways, **see the sign sheet on the easel at the back** of the Sanctuary: A donation one or more of the needed supplies; or a donation of \$\$ always works.

Other ways you can help:

- Organizing Food Baskets the on December 14, 15 and 16
- Donation of a \$25 Gift Card for Fred Meyer (each family will receive a card so that they can supplement their Christmas needs as is right for their family)
- Grocery Shopping for additional food items as needed
- Delivering Packages & Food Boxes to families the weekend of December 16.



Worship Notes

Welcoming the Darkness | Advent, 2018

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.— Isaiah 45:3

We invite the Bethel Community to journey together to discover the gifts of darkness, to uncover the hidden treasures of night, to welcome the darkness!

Come, join the search and be enriched by the dark!

Note: Many of the prayers and images used in worship for this Advent Season are taken from the work of Jan L. Richardson's *Night Visions: searching the shadows of advent and christmas*. Many of the images reproduced on the walls of the nave are from *Night Visions*.

A Vigil of Remembrance and Solidarity

On the Longest Night of the Year and the National Homeless Person's Memorial Day

Join us as we...

- ◆ Gather to name and remember the people who died on Portland's streets in the last year.
- ◆ Show support for the Foster Street Shelter and commit to collaborative care of our shared space.
- ◆ Call on our civic leaders to end punitive sweeps and over-policing.
- ◆ Commit as a community to ensuring equitable access to
 - bathrooms,
 - garbage services,
 - safe overnight camping areas.

When: December 21st
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Where: St. Mark's
Lutheran Church
5415 SE Powell Blvd.
Portland, Or 97206

We will gather at St. Mark's for 3/4 mile silent procession to the Foster Street Shelter, where we will hold the vigil.

Follow this link for updated information and details on options for those who are not comfortable walking.

www.smpdx.org/vigil.html



Our growing list of sponsors: **Southeast Organizing** and the **Southeast People of Faith, Right to Survive**, **St. Mark's Lutheran Church**, and **Operation Nightwatch**.

For more information contact Katy Rustvold (katyrustvold@mac.com) or Bonnie Beadles-Bohling, (bbeadlesbohling@gmail.com)