



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Worship with Holy Communion  
January 1, 2023



## Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here with us—in person and via Zoom—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. 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.

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**Communion** - We will celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom, as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine or grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup—Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Adiemus

By Karl Jenkins



*Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all gender/l 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.*

**Address** 5658 North Denver Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97217 • **Email** [bethel@bethelpdx.org](mailto:bethel@bethelpdx.org) • **Website** [www.bethelpdx.org](http://www.bethelpdx.org)

# Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand in body or spirit*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

### In the Bleak Midwinter



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

**O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

### Scripture Reading

**Isaiah 63:7-9**

A reading from Isaiah

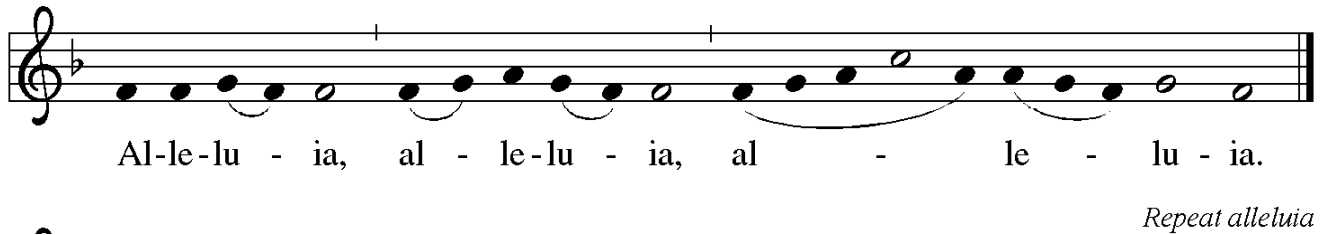
<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
<sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely";  
and he became their savior  
<sup>9</sup>in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand in body or spirit*



## Gospel Reading

## Matthew 2:13-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>13</sup>Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

## Children's Time

## Sermon

Please stand in body or spirit

## Hymn of the Day

## Cold December Flies Away

### Cold December Flies Away



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.  
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders  
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.  
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en  
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the  
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est  
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.  
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.  
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953  
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol  
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## Prayers of Intercession

*The response to each prayer is: God of grace, hear our prayer.*

## Sharing of Peace — *Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person*

*Please be seated*

# COMMUNION MEAL

*For those worshipping virtually, please gather your bread and wine to participate in Holy Communion.*

## Offering

*You may use one of our options for giving: Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, Paypal, see our website [bethelpdx.org](http://bethelpdx.org) for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may donate by mail or, if worshipping in-person, use the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!*

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of abundance,**  
**receive and bless these gifts we have offered.**  
**Join our hearts with the song of the angels,**  
**and gather us at your table of celebration.**  
**Strengthen us to share with all the world**  
**the abundance of your grace upon grace,**  
**poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**  
**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

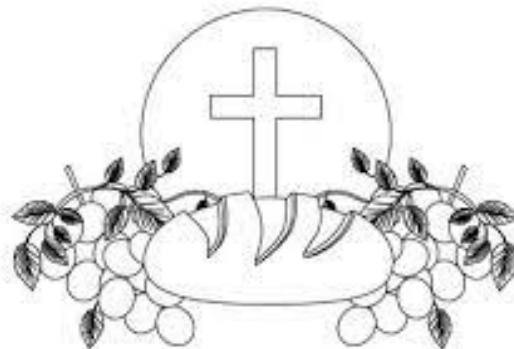
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues with the Thanksgiving at the Table. At the end, all say: **Amen.***

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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.**

Please be seated

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

### Communion Music

### **You Raise Me Up**

*By Josh Groban*



# SENDING

## Announcements

### Blessing

God bless you and keep you,  
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Sending Song

Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And days of auld lang syne

For auld lang syne my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
For auld lang syne

And here's a hand my trusty friend  
That gives a hand to thine  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
For auld lang syne

### *Auld Lang Syne*

*Traditional Hymn*

For auld lang syne my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
For auld lang syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And days of auld lang syne

### The Sending.

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship of Service	This week – Dec. 24	Next week – Jan. 1, 2023
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Music Director	Shlomo Farber	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBD	TBD
Zoom Host	<b>Joann Knoll</b>	<b>Volunteer needed!</b>

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## **Please Pray**

**Pray for the women of Iran** that they may speak out in safety and be heard and honored.

**Pray for Farid Owji**, a cousin to a friend of Pastor Leon, who is a journalist in Iran who was jailed for 27 days. Help him to heal from his trauma and help him as he seeks safety and asylum in other countries.

**Let us continue to pray for all victims of gun violence**, especially those in Highland Park, Ill, Buffalo, NY, Tulsa, OK and Uvalde, TX.

**Pray for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside, OR.** Let us lift them up in the spirit of congeniality, and partnership to live out the gospel message with our neighbors.

**Pray for peace and justice in Russia and Ukraine.** Pray for the people of both countries, the diplomats and negotiators, and the leaders of all the nations involved. Pray that all refugees and displaced persons are safe and warm and fed. Bring healing and comfort to the injured and grieving. Pray that the warfare ceases.

**Pray for peace and justice** and safety among our houseless neighbors. Help us understand how we can share your love with them.

**Pray for Bethel leaders**, including Pastor Leon LaCross, Music Director Shlomo Farber, Admin Assistant Kerry Czuba, the 2022 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

**Pray for those going through our confirmation program** that they grow in faith and have a deeper understanding of Jesus as someone who is a guiding, loving force in their lives.

**Pray for our children**, while on Christmas break that they get a chance to rest and play with family and friends.

### **Pray for those who are ill:**

- **Neil Marshall** (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor while newly returned to his home base
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and all her family who are caregiving and traveling and dealing with plumbing adventures in Faith's older home.
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health
- **Leo Lawrence** as he continues treatment for cancer
- **Shirley Kolpin and family** as Shirley recovers from hip surgery and faces life's challenges with humor, stubbornness, and joy
- **John Knight and family** as John continues in memory care
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer
- **Donald Gibler**, grandson of Laverne Atkins, who has experienced a set back due to a previous injury.
- **Clarence Montgomery and his family**, cousin of Karen Anderson, who has been recently diagnosed with Parkinson's disease that has progressed rapidly.
- **Gary Andeen** as he receives treatments for lung cancer.
- **Amy Bishop McDonald** for her diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.
- **Faith St. John** as she recovers from surgery.

**Pray for all those who have passed away** that they experience the loving embrace of God's love.

**Pray for those enduring family loss and anguish**, we continue to pray for the **Marx Family**.

**Pray for Carolyn Tamer's (friend of Marjorie) friends and family** as they mourn Carolyn's passing.

**Pray for Karin Blakely**, Ryan Olson's aunt, who passed away on Dec. 2 due to cancer. We pray for the family during this time of loss.

**Pray for Mike Dundas and family** for the passing of Bertie Dundas.

**Pray for friends and family of Gwen & Devene Jacobsen**, friends of Ryan Olson, who died in a car accident.

**Pray for Miles Bard** as he prepares to move back home.

**Pray for Eric Spurrell** as he moves into a group home in Beaverton.

**Pray for Laura Spurrell** as she prepares for her upcoming surgery.

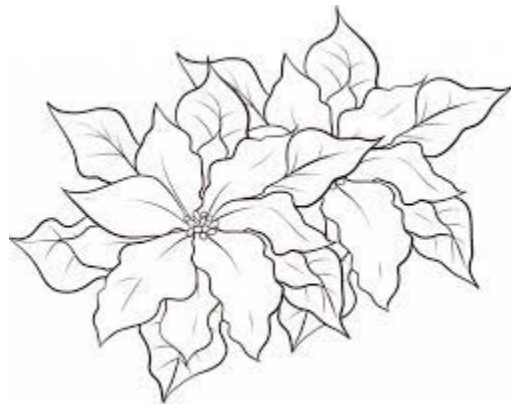
**Pray for Cedar**, nephew of P.J. & Dorian Bentley, that he receives caring and effective mental health treatment during a very difficult time for him and his family.

Continuing prayers for well-being for our loved ones **Timothy, Elizabeth, Faith, Jim, Rob, Jacob, Miles, Andrew, Nash**, and **Patricia**--may they walk in light and peace.

**Pray in thanksgiving** for all the blessings received this week.

**Pray we know that God is close** and we are open to receiving and sharing God's love.

**Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.**



A special thank you to Karen Anderson and Lisa Siems for donating poinsettias.

Scott Burris & Tana Bishop and family, Ryan Burghard & Robin Moody and family for getting and decorating the tree.

## Send

### Caring for others

What a sad day! Ben's apartment house was ruined . . . and his Christmas presents were all charred by the fire. What can Joe do to help? What would Ben need if his things were ruined by the fire?



Draw something Joe could give Ben. What would you do if Ben were your friend? What would you say to him?

### This week

Let the youngest child in the family choose an activity to do together.

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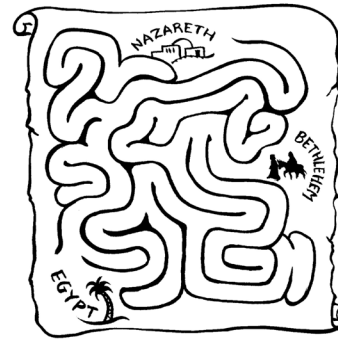
# Kids Celebrate

First Sunday of Christmas

## gather

Welcome to worship. Joseph was told in a dream to leave Bethlehem for a safer place. So he took Mary and Jesus on a long journey.

Follow the maze. Print the name of the first stop for Jesus' family:



Finish the maze. Write the name of their last stop:

## hear & celebrate

### All God's children

Matthew 2:13-23

When Jesus was born King Herod became very angry and afraid. He thought Jesus had come to take over his kingdom. Herod killed many young children in his anger when he couldn't find Jesus. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus had already escaped to Egypt.



God loves all children.

Circle the cross on each child. Crosses remind us we are children of God. Draw a cross here:

All of God's children are unique, but there is one thing in common for the three children in each row.

Check all rows—up, down, and diagonal. Circle the common item in each row.



Pray for those who are traveling this week.



Keep all children safe in your care, Lord. Be with us when we care for those who are hurting. Amen