



Christmas Eve

Worship with Holy Communion

December 24, 2022



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.

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

O Holy Night

By Adolphe Adam



Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all genderl 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.

Children's Time and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Children's Time will conclude with the following prayer as the Christ Candle is lit:

Let us Pray:

Loving God, we are thankful that the waiting of Advent is over. We rejoice that today in the city of David a Savior is born. We rejoice that our hope is fulfilled, and God's peace has come to earth. We rejoice that we can fully know God's love in Jesus Christ. Help us to celebrate today and always that a Savior has been born to us.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \ddagger 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 \ddagger Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

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

Amen.

Gathering Song of Praise

1 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

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

2 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*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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

4 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*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

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.

Please be seated



WORD

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You 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.
⁴For 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.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For 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.
⁷His 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.

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



Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - - - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-5

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verses 1 and 3

1 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.

3 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.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:6-7

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn 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 A Manger

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Refrain

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866



The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Sharing of Peace – *Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person*
Please be seated

COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshiping 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 for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may donate by mail or, if worshiping 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 musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each phrase aligned with its corresponding musical notes. The lyrics are:

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Musical notation for the Hallel Psalms, consisting of five staves of music in G clef. The lyrics are written below each staff:

- 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

Maoz Tsur (Rock of the Ages)
Jewish Traditional

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

**God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

When lighting your candle, please hold the lit candle upright and dip the unlit candle into the flame. Parents, please keep a close eye on your child(ren) if they are holding a candle. When extinguishing your candle, please cup your hand around the flame.

Hymn

- 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!

Silent Night

- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Christmas Prayer

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who has poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word; Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Joy to the World

- 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.

- 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.

The Sending.

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

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Somewhere In My Memory

By John Williams

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	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Please Pray

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

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. Especially as they get ready for a new roof and their 75th anniversary.

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.

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 continues transitional housing in Minneapolis.

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

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

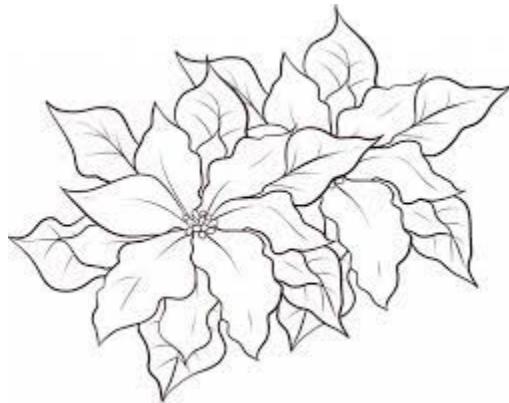
Pray for Cedar, nephew of P.J. & Dorian Bentley, that he receives caring and effective mental health treatment during a very difficult time for him and his family.

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

Songs of joy

Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! (from the hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.")



Many Christmas carols you sing have rhyming words.

Find five sets of rhyming words in this picture and draw a line between each pair of words (hint: mat and hat).

My favorite Christmas song about Jesus is:

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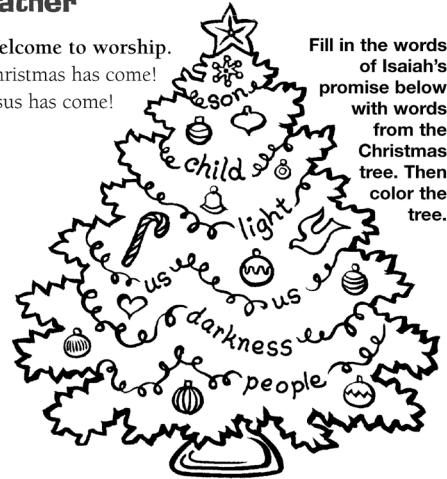
kids Celebrate Nativity of Our Lord

gather

Welcome to worship.

Christmas has come!

Jesus has come!



Fill in the words of Isaiah's promise below with words from the Christmas tree. Then color the tree.

The _____ who walked in _____
have seen a great _____. For a
_____ has been born for ___, a _____
given to ____ (Isaiah 9:2,6).

hear & Celebrate

The big picture of Christmas

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Simple pictures tell the big story of Christmas. Listen to the story of Jesus' birth as it is told today in the gospel.

Number the seven pictures to put them in the correct order.



Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Amen



Read the Christmas story from Luke or from picture books at home. Notice how different artists tell Jesus' story with pictures.

Merry Christmas

