



1st Sunday in Advent

Worship with Holy Communion

November 26, 2023

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church



We are glad you are here, and we pray God will be real to you as you worship with us. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation; therefore, we invite all people, including those of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, ages, economic levels, and abilities. God loves all creation and holds us all, so we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We honor and appreciate the rich diversity of age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity and expression, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

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

Vieux Noël
By César Franck



Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all gender 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 • **Website** www.bethelpdx.org

Children's Time and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As the candles are lit, the congregation prays:

God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Awaken our hearts to you this Advent season, so that when Christ arrives, we are ready to receive him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.


Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.


Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.


O Come, O Come, Emmanuel




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 night: 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*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: Psalterium Cantuum Catholicorum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text vs. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

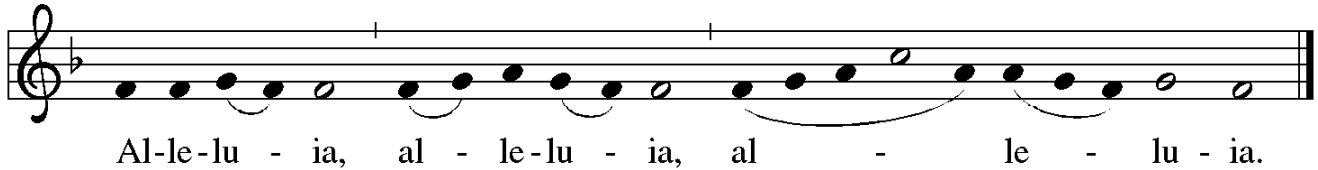
A reading from Isaiah.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Please be seated

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Please Stand in body or spirit

My Lord, What a Morning

My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

Prayers of Intercession

*The response to each prayer is: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

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

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: The offering plate will be passed by the ushers, Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, PayPal, see our website bethelpdx.org for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may give by mail. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Offertory

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Pastor will guide you when to take the bread and cup to eat and drink.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

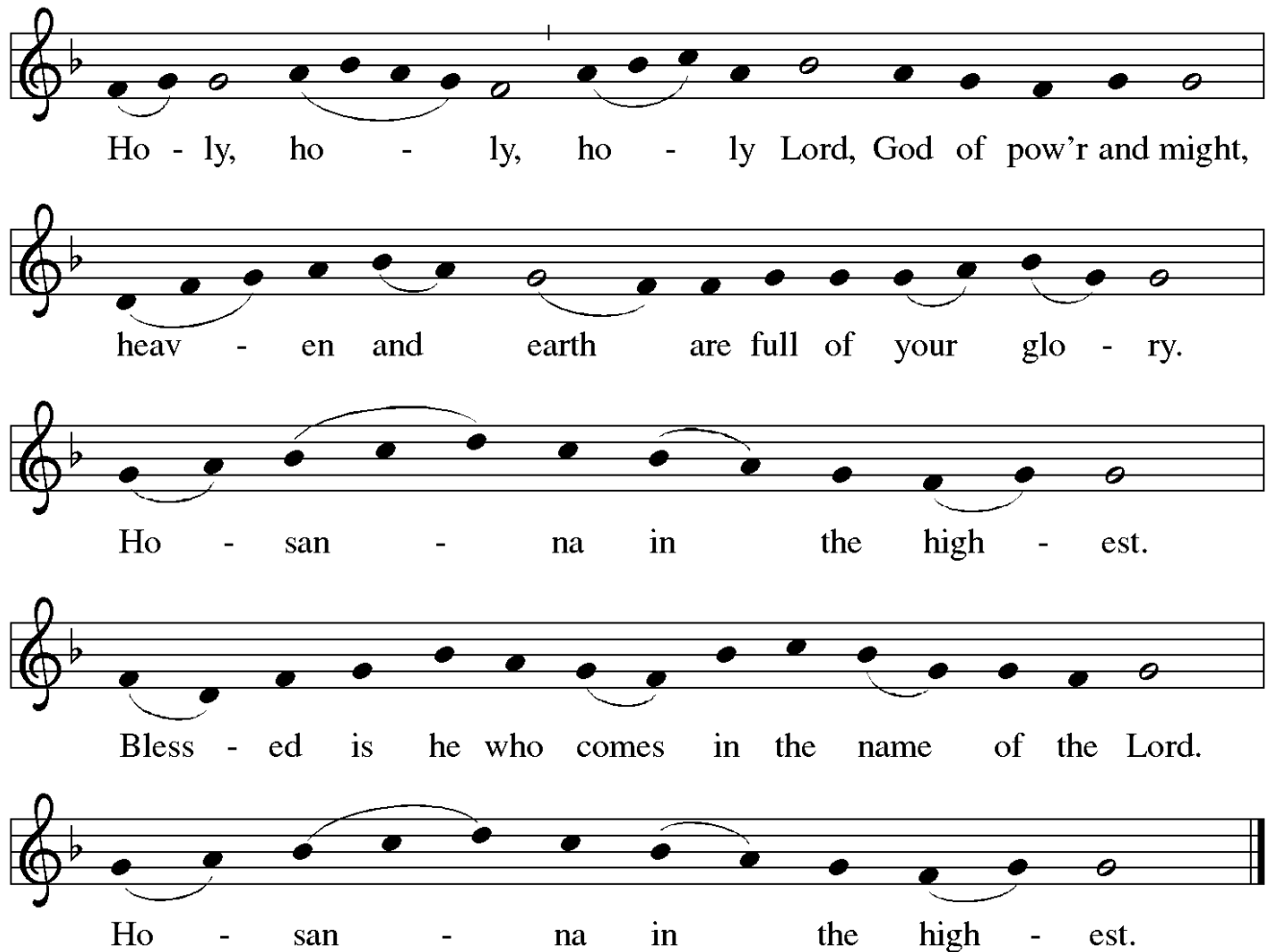
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise



The Thanksgiving continues with the preface.



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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Arr. By Sally Deford

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

A Child is Born
By Thad Jones

The Sending.

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Nov. 26, 2023	Next week – Dec. 3, 2023
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Music Director/Musician	Shlomo Farber	Jamie Vandenberg
Reader	TBD	TBD
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, and all of the Middle East as they suffer war, violence, terror, and retribution. Show the world a path to peace and justice.

Pray for all those struggling after earthquakes, including those on the Turkey/Syrian border, in Afghanistan, and in Papua New Guinea, as they mourn their losses and rebuild homes and communities.

Pray for those recovering from natural disasters, especially those on Maui, in Florida, in New York, in Morocco, and in Libya.

Let us continue to pray for all victims of gun violence.

Pray for peace and justice in Russia and Ukraine, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

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 2023 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board as they prepare for the Summer 2024 Day Camp. Send us excellent applicants for Director and Staff.

Pray for Shlomo Farber, that his family and friends in Israel may be safe.

Pray for the young leaders who were confirmed recently that they grow in faith and gain a deeper understanding of Jesus as a guiding, loving force in their lives.

Pray for our children, as they continue the school year and their journey to become creative and adventurous lifelong learners.

Pray for those who are ill:

- Mark Sjostrom, Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications.
- Neil Marshall (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor.
- Faith Moser (mother of Joann Noll) as Faith enters her second century!
- David Gyles for his improved lung health.
- Leo Lawrence for recovery from neuropathy surgery.
- John Knight and family as John continues in memory care.
- Laura Day, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- Gary Andeen as he receives treatment for lung cancer.
- Amy Bishop McDonald for her diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.
- Chuck Huntley, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- Glenn Chase, in thanks for his continued good health.
- Jackie Calder for healing and health that allows travel and volunteer work.
- Mary Rix** as she undergoes surgery and radiation for cancer.
- JulieAnn Edman* in thanksgiving for a successful surgery and optimistic prognosis and continued healing as she undergoes her treatment.

***Feel free to send an email to JulieAnn at jedman999@gmail.com with words of encouragement and gratitude.**

****If you'd like to send a message to Mary Rix please use the Caring Bridge website:
<https://www.caringbridge.org/signup/5f4bb34ebe55a79bad3c12a3cc7aae6f11447288e0500c2c2b9c23254dc826b7> Site name: maryrix Your support, including comments and hearts are much appreciated.**

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

Especially long time Bethelite LaVerne Atkins, who died on November 6, 2023 at age 93. Her funeral service will be December 16th at 1:00 PM at Mt. Scott Funderal Home, 4205 SE 59th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97206.

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.

Continue to give thanks for Joann's mom, Faith Moser, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Give thanks and celebrate the recent baptism of Ellis & Solveig Erickson-Spencer.

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

Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.

Mark Your Calendars...See what's happening at Bethel and Beyond this week:

11/26 Advent Wreath Kits available*
11/30 Crafternoon w/Pr. Leon
11/30 Happy Hour on Zoom
12/02 TBD Fetching of the Bethel Christmas Tree
12/03 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
12/03 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in-person or on Zoom
12/03 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM MACG
12/03 4:00 PM Jazz Concert and Cookie Exchange**

***Advent wreath kits are available at the back of church.**

****Get started on baking those cookies. Come and enjoy some music, share some cookies and bring home some new goodies.**



Angel Project At Bethel Lutheran

Thinking about others is part of the holiday spirit at Bethel. We hope everyone can contribute in some way to the Angel Project this year. Here are some ways to do it:

-Collect your recyclable bottles and cans in blue bags with the Bethel sticker and drop them at church or take them to your local center. (We don't have a large surplus of funds in our Angel Project account.)

Contribute money for our shoppers to purchase gifts for families and to supply items for hygiene bags distributed by Terrance Moses' project Friends of Ours (misspelling intentional). Donations can be made by check sent to Bethel Lutheran Church, 5658 N. Denver Ave., Portland, Oregon 97217, please note funds for Angel Project. You can also Venmo using this QR Code, add note for Angel Project.



Adopt a family. We usually serve about 10-12 families/individuals.

Other items needed: warm socks, warm gloves and hats (used okay), hotel size lotions, HotHands.

Questions? Contact Joann at joann.noll@gmail.com



The First Sunday of Advent is today, Bethel invites you to pick up an Advent Wreath kit from church to use at home. Instructions are provided in each kit.

Check out the Blesst for prayers that will coincide with each week of Advent. Do you need some inspirational music while lighting your candles? Try the album Incarnation by the vocalist group Sister Sinjin, available on Bandcamp for a small donation.

Let this season of preparation give you pause and a moment to deepen your relationship with Christ.

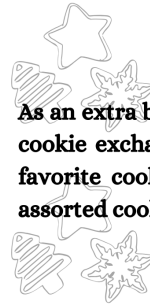


Join Bethel Lutheran
Church for a
Holiday Jazz Concert
with Northwest Tempo
At Bethel Lutheran Church
5658 N. Denver Ave.

When: Sunday,
December 3, 2023
at 4:00 PM



As an extra bonus and to celebrate the holiday season a cookie exchange will be after the concert. Bring your favorite cookies and swap to create a lovely plate of assorted cookies to share with your friends and family.



All are welcome!
Donations accepted



Decorating the Church for Christmas!

Please consider ordering a poinsettia to decorate the alter. 6 inch pots are \$10 and 8 inch pots are \$20. **Last day to order is Dec. 20th**

Use Signup genius to place your order and then use Venmo **@BethelLutheran-Church**, confirmation # digits 6064, Paypal ([bethelpdx.org](https://www.bethelpdx.org)), phone or send in a check (mark for poinsettias) to Bethel Lutheran Church, 5658 N. Denver Ave., Portland, OR 97217

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4CABAC2CA4F49-poinsettias#/>