



2nd Sunday in Advent

Worship with Holy Communion

December 3, 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

O Come, Emmanuel
15th Century French melody



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 peace, during this Advent season, keep us from getting caught up in the busyness and chaos of the world around us. Help us to slow down, so that we may find rest in the Prince of Peace, your son, Jesus Christ. As we prepare for his coming, make us instruments of your peace in our homes, in our schools, in our work and in our world. 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 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*
- 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: Psalteriolae Cantuarum Catholicorum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processionals, 15th cent.
 Text vs. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from Peter.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

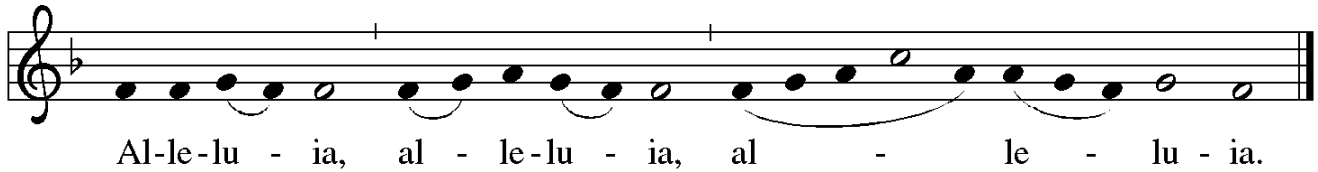
¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

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

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,' "

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Please be seated

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

Please Stand in body or spirit

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the

high - way, a high - way for our God!
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.

The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the

loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now

plac - es where God, our God, may go!
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
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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

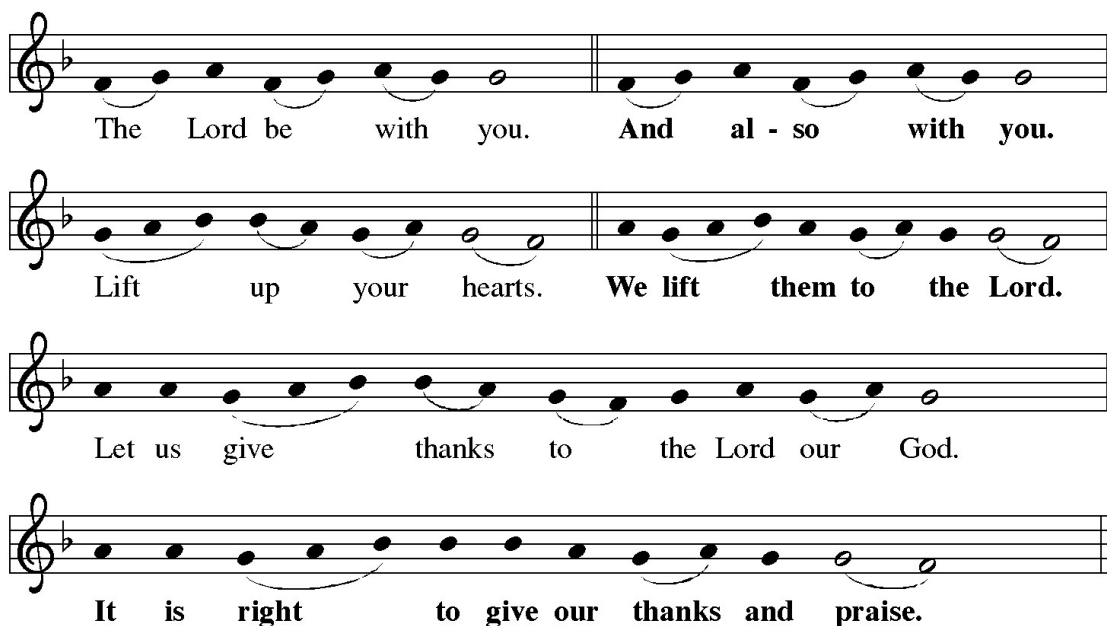
and faithfulness for all people,

through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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



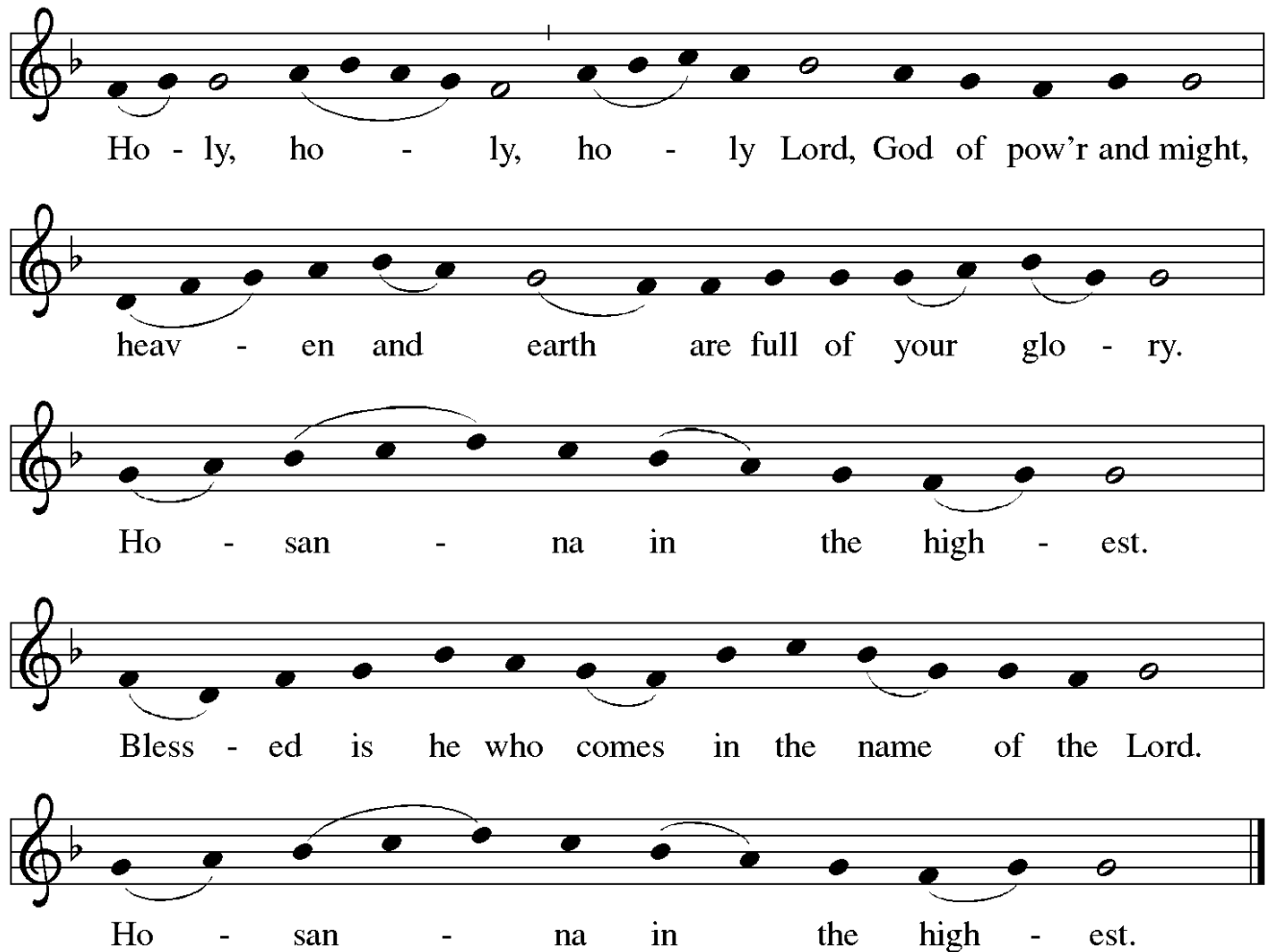
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.



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

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Korean Traditional

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

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah
Yiddish Folk Tune

The Sending.

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



Stewardship of Service	This week – Dec. 3, 2023	Next week – Dec. 10, 2023
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician/Music Director	Jamie Vandenberg	Shlomo Farber
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.

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 in our confirmation program that they grow in faith and gain a deeper understanding of Jesus as a guiding, loving force in their lives. Bless those confirmed as they have taken the next step in becoming adult members of the Bethel congregation and community,

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 treatments 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.

*To send notes to JulieAnn please email her at jedman999@gmail.com.

****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.

LaVerne Atkins, a longtime Bethelite, joined the saints in heaven on November 6, 2023. Her Family has planned a funeral service for December 16th at 1pm at Mt. Scott Funeral Home, 4205 SE 59th Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97206. Let us keep her family in our prayers as they mourn their loss of LaVerne.

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 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:

12/03 11:00 AM Tree Decorating!
12/03 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM MACG
12/03 4:00 PM Jazz Concert and Cookie Exchange**
12/07 Noon Crafternoon w/Pr. Leon
12/07 4:30-5:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom
12/10 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
12/10 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in-person or on Zoom

Advent Wreath Kits available at the back of the 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 Freinds 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 November 26, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. 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 Blest 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.

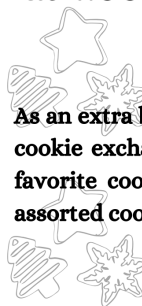


Join Bethel Lutheran
Church for a
Holiday Jazz Concert
with Northwest Tempo
At Bethel Lutheran Church
5658 N. Denver Ave.

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 altar. 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 phone # digits 6064, Paypal (bethelpdx.org), 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#/>