



3rd Sunday in Advent

Worship with Holy Communion

December 10, 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

12 Short Pieces for the Organ: No. II

By Samuel Wesley



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 joy, it is in your love that we find lasting joy. Keep us from seeking happiness in things that will not last, for we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. Teach us instead to find joy in the gift of your Son, who came into this world with nothing, yet gave us everything. May his joy bubble up in our hearts and overflow to all we meet this Advent season. 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,



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 Choroicum Catholicorum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French procession, 15th cent.
 Text nos. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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

Luke 1:46b-55

A reading from Luke.

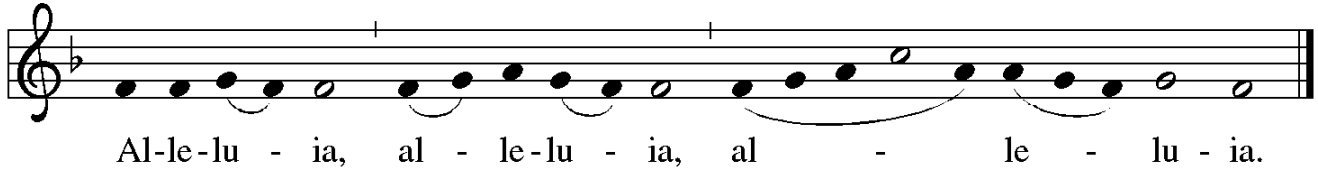
^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.
⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

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



Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Gospel Reading

John 1:19-28

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

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Please be seated

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Please Stand in body or spirit

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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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

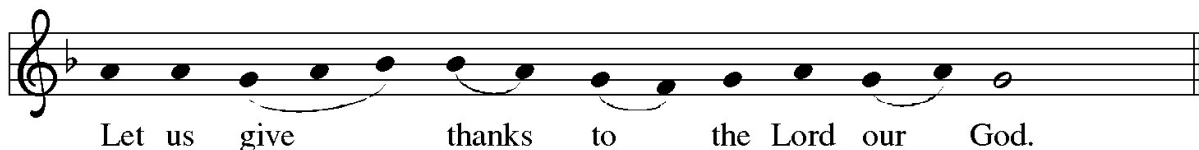
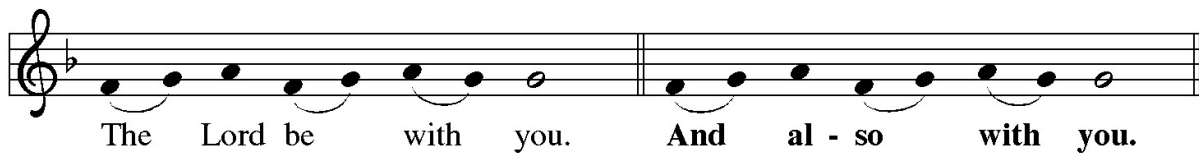
and faithfulness for all people,

through Jesus Christ our Savior.

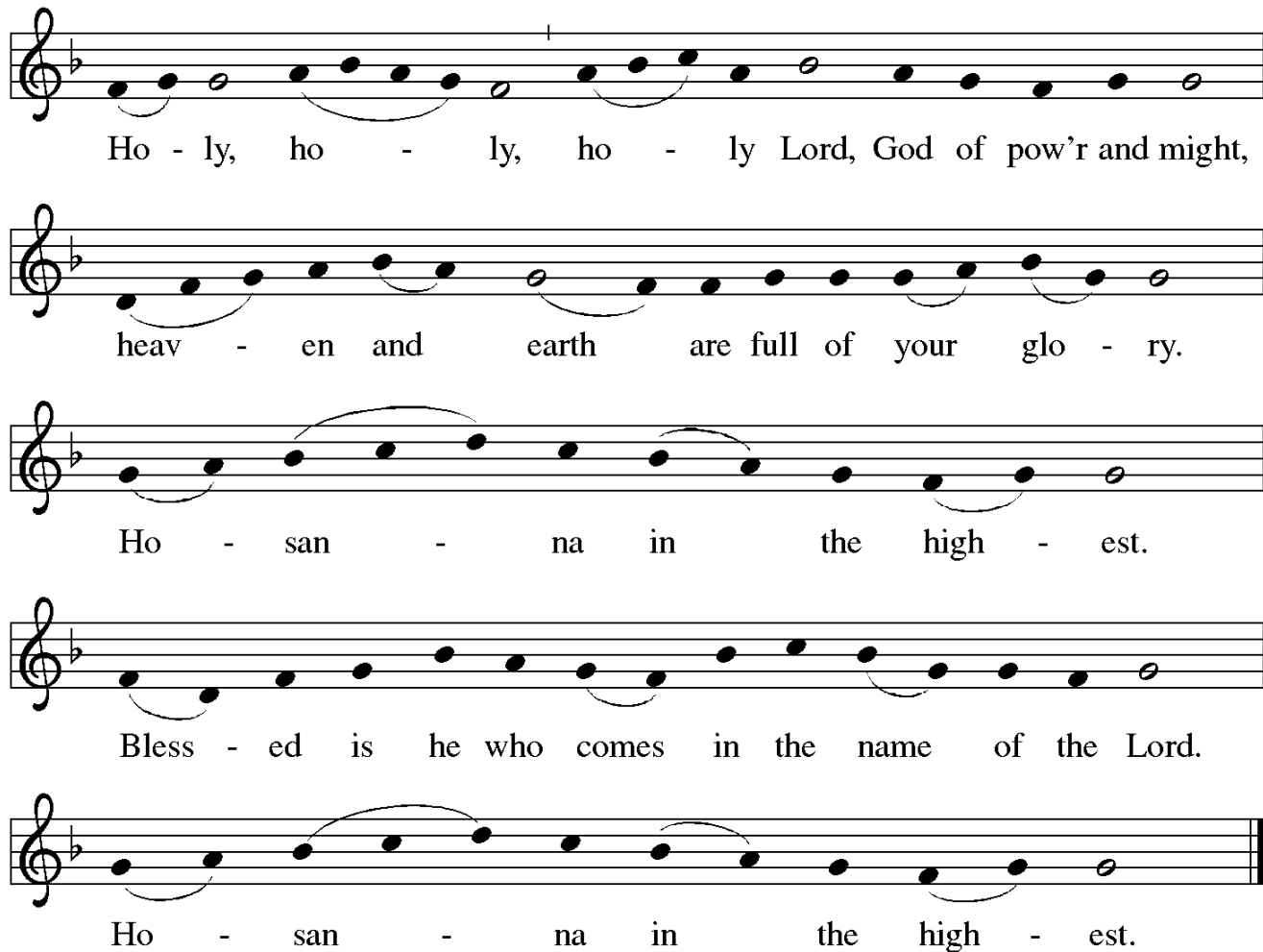
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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



The 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

The Christmas Song
By Mel Torme, Robert Wells

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

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

By Hugh Martin, Ralph Blane

The Sending.

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Dec. 10, 2023	Next week – Dec. 17, 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	Karen Anderson	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 Ju Ju Moody for a successful immigration process.

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 Ella Belle Schwartz, Pr. Leon's cousin's baby, as she is welcomed into the world and getting stronger in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Pray for the young leaders who recently received confirmation, 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 hope for a successful surgery on the 19th of December and continued healing as she undergoes her treatment.

*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:

- 12/13 Drop-In Board Meeting on Zoom
- 12/14 Crafternoon w/Pr. Leon
- 12/14 4:30-5:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom
- 12/15 Angel Project Gift Wrapping
- 12/17 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
- 12/17 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in-person or on Zoom
- 12/17 Last Sunday to pick up your Advent wreath kit
- 12/17 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting

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



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



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.



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 **@BethelLutheranChurch**, 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#/>



Bethel will have one service to celebrate Christmas on December 24th at 5:00 PM with festive hymn song at 4:45 PM

Invite friends and family to join us in celebrating the birth of Christ.