



2nd Sunday in Advent

Worship with Holy Communion

December 8, 2024

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 All Ye Faithful/Beethoven "Pathetique" Sonata**
Arr. By Carolyne M. Taylor



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,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

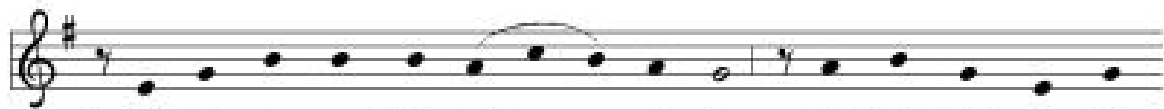
through † Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

Amen.

Gathering Song of Praise

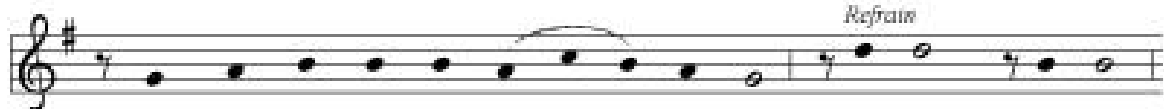
O Come, O Come Emmanuel Verses 3 & 4



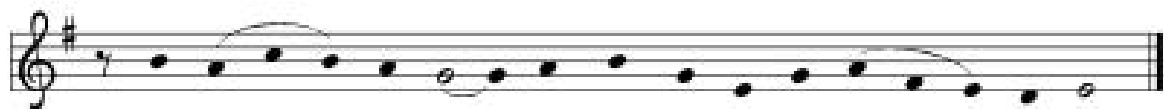
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
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*

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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

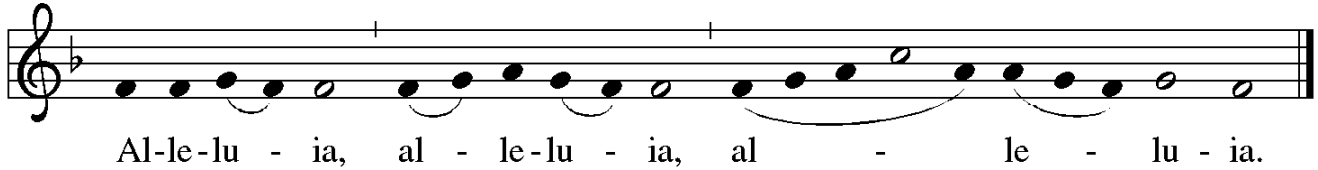
A reading from Philippians.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

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

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

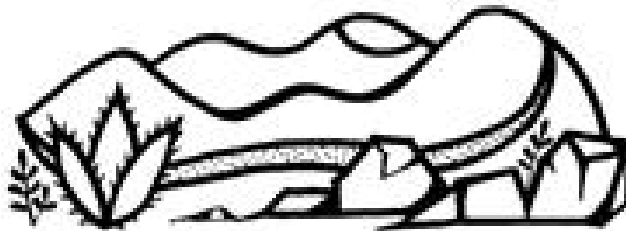
⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

Please be seated

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cries

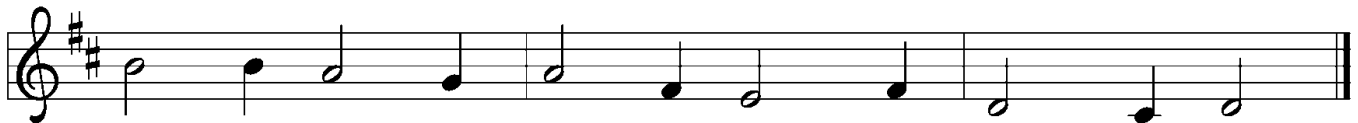
Please Stand in body or spirit



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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*



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: 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!

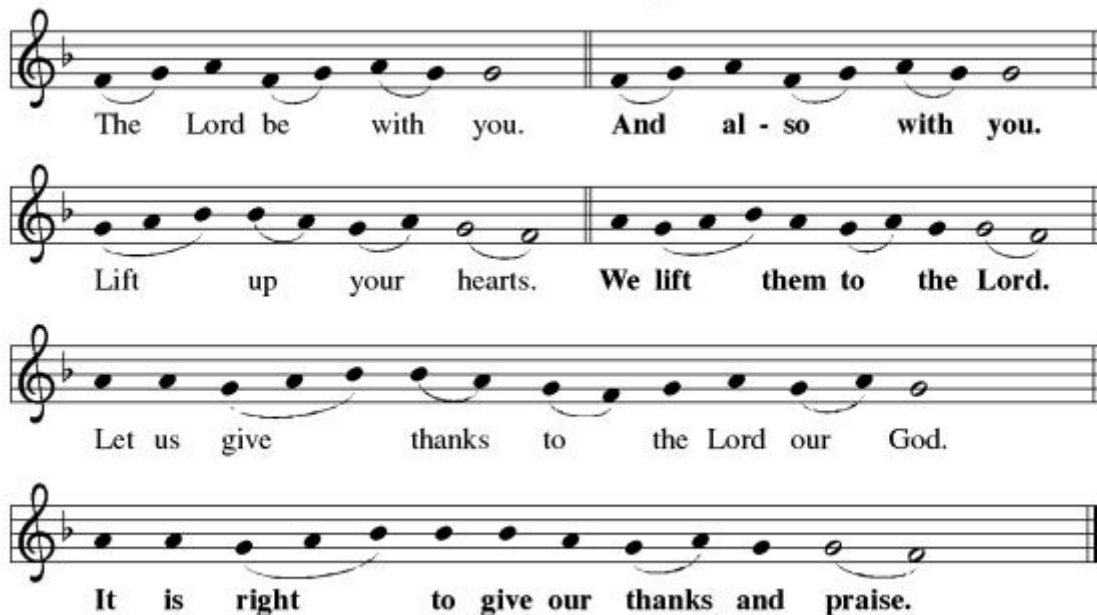
Offertory

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 *What Child is This/Beethoven "Moonlight Sonata"*

Arr. ByCarolyn M. Taylor

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,
 God in the darkness and the light,
 God, our hope for the journey,
 † bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song

Hark the Herald Angels Sing/G.F. Handel's "Largo"
Arr. ByCarolyn M. Taylor

The Sending.

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Dec. 8 2024	Next week – Dec 15, 2024
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician	Colin Shephard	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBD	TBD
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

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

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

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 2024 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board as we begin our search for a director and staff.

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

Pray for Julia Rankin as she finishes her first semester at seminary.

Pray for Sean Fitzgerald (Nikki Bucholz), Kim Bucholz's son-in-law who has been deployed to Iraq.

Pray for our children, as they anticipate the coming holidays, that they know hope, peace, joy and love.

Pray for the teachers, school staff, parents, guardians, and grandparents who teach our children and keep them safe.

Pray for the following:

- **Mark Sjostrom,** Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and her daughters as Faith moves into assisted living.
- **David Giles** as he discontinues treatment for lung cancer.
- **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.
- **Chuck Huntley,** brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Glenn Chase,** in thanks for his continued good health.
- **Jackie Calder,** in thanks for healing and health that allows her to travel and to accomplish loving volunteer work.
- **Lorraine Griffey** for health, stamina, and joy.
- **Rhonda Pederson,** after a liver cancer diagnosis
- **Rick Van Dyke,** brother to Jim Van Dyke, as Rick lives with the uncertainty of his illness and works with his medical team to prepare for treatment.
- **Darin Schmidt,** a former Bethelite, and his wife Jessica, as they navigate a diagnosis of liver cancer.
- **Matt LaCross** for an easy surgery and recovery.
- **Marlo Edman** for upcoming medical procedures.
- **Ronda Bard** to get to the root of her pain and get back to her healthy self.
- **Bob Enke,** cousin of JulieAnn Edman, for healing from a fall and for getting the care he needs.
- **Denny Hepp,** for treatment & care as he battles brain cancer.
- **Marjorie Strieff** that she recovers fully from a recent illness and grieves the loss of her brother.
- **Miles Bard** for health and stamina.
- **Lee Clemen** that he gets back on his feet.

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

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

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


Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.





BETHEL'S
JINGLE & MINGLE
DEC. 8
11:00 AM AFTER SERVICE

You may be thinking to yourself, what is this "Jingle and Mingle?" Good question! The St John's Fund Committee wants to check in about where heads and hearts are in the congregation. They have been brainstorming and researching different ways we can outreach to our community and how we can invest the St John's gift in the spirit of outreach.

Why not share updates in a casual and fun setting with festive treats and drinks, seasonal music, and an opportunity to decorate the congregation for the Advent and Christmas seasons. After worship on December 8 (approximately 11am) we'll come together and haul out the holly to give our sanctuary that special Bethel touch. Members of the St John's Committee will be there answer any questions you may have and to check in about your thoughts on how we can best serve our neighbors. Bring your friends and family and get in the Christmas spirit!



Join Bethel Lutheran Church
for a
Holiday Jazz Concert
with Northwest Tempo



5658 N. Denver Ave
Portland, Oregon 97217
503.285.4919

When: Sunday,
December 15, 2024
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

bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org



Angel Project 2024 Underway

Applications have been sent to eight families who may benefit from some extra help at this expensive time of year. In addition, Terrance Moses typically refers a couple of families connected with the Friends of Ours project out of Kenton. We continue to partner with Friends of Ours to put together 120 hygiene bags that are distributed to campers. Many of the items (hats, gloves, socks, soap) are donated.

The Girl Scout troop that newly meets at Bethel is also interested in our project.

How Can You Help!

- Sponsor a family by buying gifts from their requests (wrapped or unwrapped)
- Donate \$25 gift cards from Fred Meyer or Safeway to supplement holiday food that is provided.
- Donate to the Bethel Lutheran Church Angel Project fund.
- Donate your cans and bottles in the Blue Bags available from church.
- Donate cleaning, laundry and paper products that cannot be purchased with a family's food stamps.
- Donate leftover Halloween candy (treat for the hygiene bags)
- Shop with some Angel Project funds for a family.
- Help with wrapping gifts! The date will likely be Friday, December 20.

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

