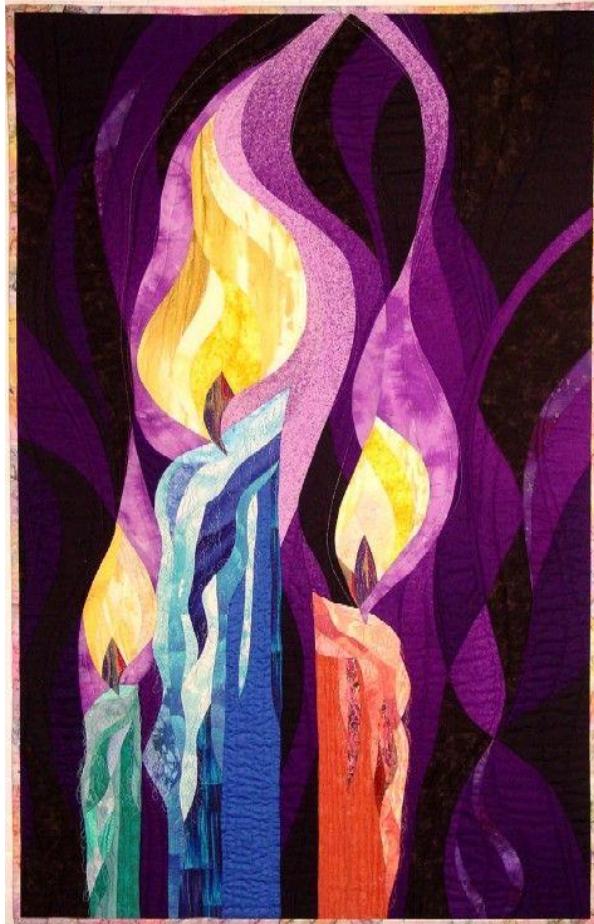




# Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Welcome to Bethlehem!

What should you expect when you come for in-person worship on the lawn? Below are a few guidelines. If you are joining us virtually, please feel free to skip this section. Above all, we ask that you come with an open mind and a gracious heart as we live into this new way of worshipping together.

- If you have a fever, cough, breathing problems, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell – please enjoy our virtual worship service from your home.
- If you have traveled outside of California, flown on a plane, or been exposed to someone with the above symptoms, please enjoy our virtual worship service from your home for 14 days.
- Masks will be required at all times, except for children 2 years and under.
- Please maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from people not in your household.
- Bring any supplies you might need to survive a 45 min outdoor worship service!
  - **Chairs or blankets** (limited handicap seating will be available)
  - Water, hats, sunscreen, umbrellas, and hand sanitizer
  - Your own communion elements
- Please print the bulletin at home or bring it on your phone or tablet.
  - A scannable QR code will be available when you arrive if you forget.
- There will be one entrance point near the olive trees and benches. Exits will be located near the MU building and Dot's Garden.
- Ushers will guide you to your seating area. Once you are seated, please refrain from leaving your seating area. Children must remain with their household at all times. Ushers will come and dismiss you when worship has concluded.
- Please refrain from using the bathroom if possible. The bathroom in the MU building will be available for one person to use at a time if necessary.
  - Please enter through the door closest to the parking lot.
  - And exit through the door that opens onto the grass.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

## OPENING LITANY

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: O come, O come Emmanuel.**

L: O God, let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: And ransom captive Israel.**

L: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.

**C: O come, O come Emmanuel.**

L: Blessed be God—the Creator of Light, the Light of the World, and the Giver of Light, whose forgiveness is sure, and whose steadfast love endures forever. Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**C: O God, we confess that the darkness of this world can feel as if it overshadows your light. May it not be so. May we place neighbor above self. May we not limit your good news only to those who look like us. In the deepest places of our hearts we hide our fear and shame. Shed your light in our lives. Forgive us, restore us and make us whole.**

L: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the light and peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

# KYRIE

## A Flickering Candle

2 verses/week – Cantor sings “choir” part, congregation sings refrain

*Choir:* A flickering candle sheds its light in hope of dawn’s victorious might,  
and backward scurries cowardly night reminded of the morning.

*All:* Refrain

*Choir:* From Jesse’s barren stump will spring a noble branch, a righteous King;  
*(Advent 1)* to earth’s despairing lands he’ll bring both justice and salvation.

*All:* Refrain

*Choir:* God’s messenger prepares the way, on sin he shines a piercing ray;  
*(Advent 2)* he bids us greet the dawning day renewed and purified.

*All:* Refrain

*Choir:* Though night is long, do not grow weak, to all who suffer, clearly speak:  
*(Advent 3)* “The Lord, the Savior whom you seek, behold, is come among you!”

*All:* Refrain

*Choir:* The dawn of God’s redeeming grace lit Bethlehem, that humble place;  
*(Advent 4)* now radiant beams from Jesus’ face illumine all creation.

*All:* Refrain

*Refrain:*

Watch, watch, for Christ is near, the  
prom - ised Son of God most dear.  
Hope, hope, his light will clear the  
shades of death and sin.

# ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING AND CONGREGATIONAL STORIES

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### WORD

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as 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! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From 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. You 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. We 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. There 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. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark the Glad Sound – ELW 239 (1 vs/week)



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then 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. “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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It 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. Therefore, 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

R: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Laura Ziehl

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Lord What a Morning – ELW 438



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,



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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always,

C: **And also with you!**

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

*During the offertory response you are invited to prepare your communion elements.*

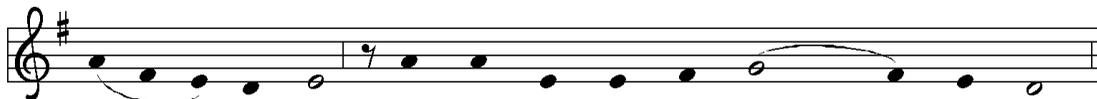
## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – ELW 257

1 verse/week



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-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.

# MEAL

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts,

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 112

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in 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.**

*If you have prepared communion elements, you are invited to commune during the hymn saying: "The body of Christ, given for you." & "The blood of Christ, shed for you."*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**    Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn  
ELW 242 – 1 verse/week



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

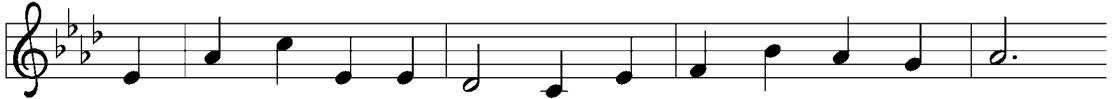
# SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

## SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers – ELW 244 vs. 1, 3, & 4



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proch - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

*For in-person worshippers – during the postlude, please pack up your belongings and wait for the ushers to come and dismiss you. We hope to see you again soon!*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## STAFF

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### Pastors

Laura Ziehl  
Sam Nelson

### Family Ministry Director

Constance Mithelman

### Early Childhood Center

Debi Carr – Full Day Preschool Director  
Kelly Perez – Half Day Preschool Director

### Office Administrator

Judy Foland

### Music Ministries

Mona Goetsch – Director  
Judy Collier – Pianist/Organist

### Ministries & Programs

Laure Reynolds – Stephen Ministry  
Rose Moldenhauer – Parish Nurse

# All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, celebrating, and above all — we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin or the color of your hair, regardless of your gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation — you are welcome here.

If you are a believer, a doubter or a seeker after Christ — you have a place here.

If you own, rent, or have nothing at all — you are welcome here.

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities, if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions — you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it — are welcome here.

For these are all of the things that make you who you are: the person God loves. Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. The time is now. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran Church is an all-inclusive church.

**The Mission of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is  
to announce boldly the love of God through Christ.**



Reconciling in Christ



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
& Early Childhood Center

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  - Search Bethlehem Lutheran Church by name or zip code
  - If you already have an online giving account from the BLC website you can login with that or you can create a new one in the app
- BLC Website
  - Go to [BLCENC.org](http://BLCENC.org) and select the “[Contribute](#)” tab from the top menu
  - Click the “Give Now” button

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  - Make recurring, or one-time donations
  - Give to general, or various special funds
  - All donations appear on your giving statement

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