



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 13<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.*

L: O God, we confess ...

**C: 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

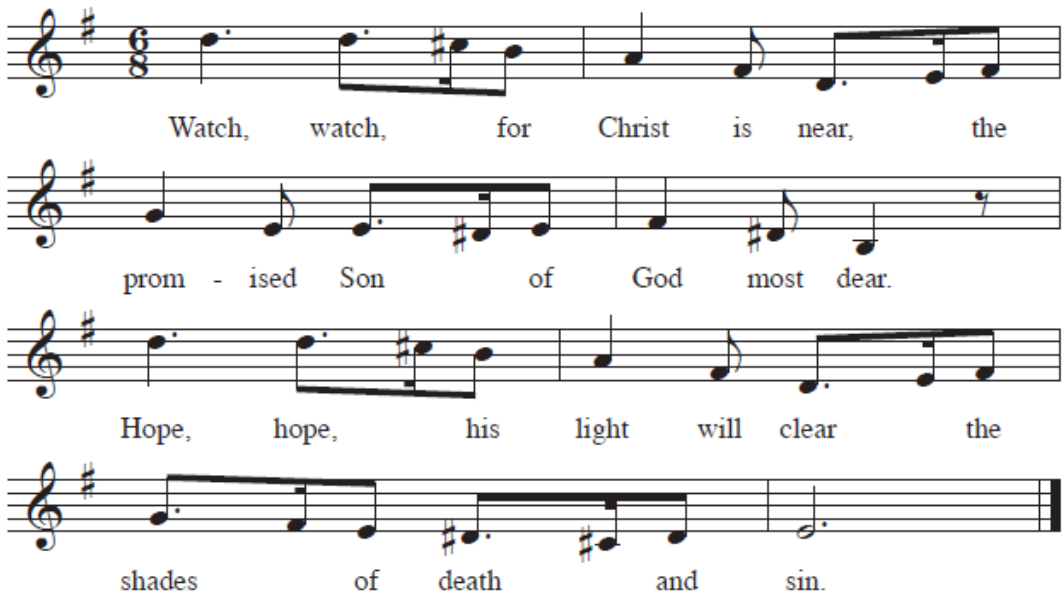
*Choir: A flickering candle sheds its light in hope of dawn's victorious might,  
and backward scurries cowardly night reminded of the morning.*

*All: Refrain*

*Choir: 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*

*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 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – 8:30 AM

“Called to Christmas”

# WORD

## SCRIPTURE READING

The Magnificat – Luke 1:46-55  
Holden Evening Prayer



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my  
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



sir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your  
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the  
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to



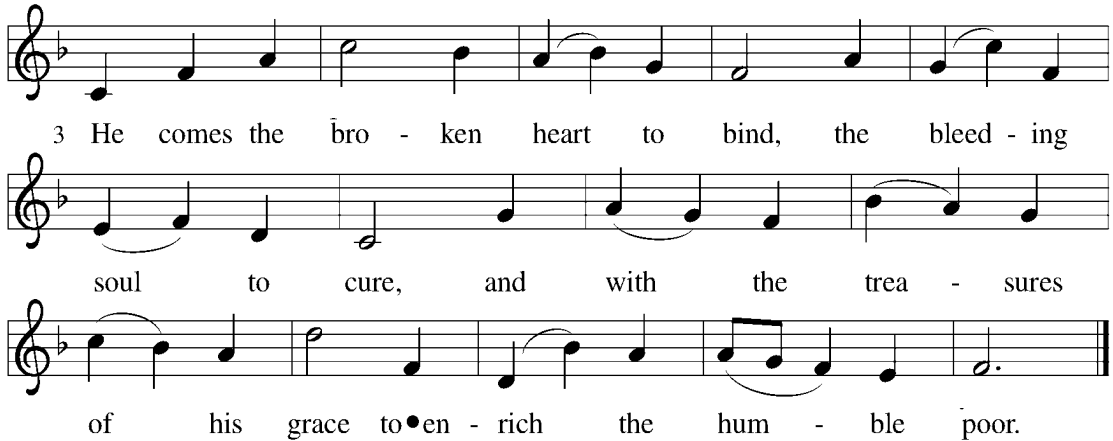
weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!  
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Hark the Glad Sound – ELW 239 (verse 3)



3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.

**GOSPEL READING**

Mark 1:1-8

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

R: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning – ELW 723 vs. 1 & 2



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.

*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

# 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.*

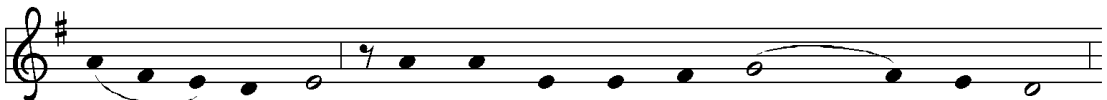
# OFFERTORY RESPONSE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – ELW 257

Verse 3



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 – Verse 3



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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice – ELW 288



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## 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

## Electronic Giving Options

- Give Plus+ App
  - Using your smartphone or tablet, download the “Give Plus+” app from your App Store
  - 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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- With either option you can:
  - Use a checking account, or credit & debit cards
  - Choose to cover the credit card transaction fee
  - Make recurring, or one-time donations
  - Give to general, or various special funds
  - All donations appear on your giving statement

**Thank You for Your Support of BLC!**