



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
& Early Childhood Center



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

December 27<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

## CHRISTMAS DIALOG

L: Amazing God, you love us so much that you came to us as an infant.

**C: Born in a stable because there was no room at the inn.**

L: You call us to love the world as we have been loved by you.

**C: Wrapped in swaddling clothes, you slept in a manger because there was no crib.**

L: You command us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

**C: Shepherds welcomed you.**

L: You call us to create an inclusive church in which everyone is welcomed and loved.

**C: No one was turned away from the stable door.**

L: You keep calling us to open our doors, to welcome the outcasts, house the homeless, feed the hungry, and turn over the tables in the temple.

**C: Lambs and cows, chickens and donkeys, men, women, children, angels of all kinds surrounded you.**

L: One star brighter than the rest led the world to your door. Help us to create a world and a church in which all of your children are safe and loved, affirmed, welcomed, and fully accepted, where we all have a community of angels surrounding us.

**C: Amen**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

Go Tell it on the Mountain – ELW 290 vs. 1 & 2

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

# WORD

## SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      Angels We Have Heard on High – ELW 289 vs. 2



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

R: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Jamie Newcomb & Ursula Meyer

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## The Holly and the Ivy

Verses 1, 3, & 4



1. The hol-ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown, of
2. The hol-ly bears a blos-som as white as an - y flower, and
3. The hol-ly bears a ber - ry as red as an - y blood, and
4. The hol-ly bears a branch— as sharp as an - y thorn, and



1. all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - ly bears the\_\_ crown.
2. Ma-ry bore sweet\_\_ Je-sus Christ to be our sweet Sav - ior.
3. Ma-ry bore sweet\_\_ Je-sus Christ to do poor sin - ners\_\_ good.
4. Ma-ry bore sweet\_\_ Je-sus Christ on Christ-mas day in the morn.



- 1-4. The ris-ing of the sun and the run-ning of the deer, the



- 1-4. play-ing of the mer-ry or - gan, sweet sing-ing in the choir.

## 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

Angels, from the Realms of Glory – ELW 275

Verses 1 & 2



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

# 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

Sung to Away in a Manager – ELW 277

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!  
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same  
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:  
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;  
As we forgive others, our sins take away;  
In times of temptation, to lead us be near:  
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things Your reign.  
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.  
To You be the glory, resounding again  
From all of creation, forever! 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

The First Noel – ELW 300 vs. 1



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

**SENDING**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

# SENDING HYMN

# God Rest You Merry Gentlemen



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may;
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel came,
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,



1. Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior Was born on Christ - mas Day
2. And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought tid - ings of the same,
3. This day is born a Sav - ior Of Vir - gin pure and bright,
4. And with true love and char - i - ty Each oth - er now em - brace;



1. To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray.
2. How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.
3. To free all those who trust in him From Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
4. This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas Is filled with heav'n - ly grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, Com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus!

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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  - Give to general, or various special funds
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**Thank You for Your Support of BLC!**