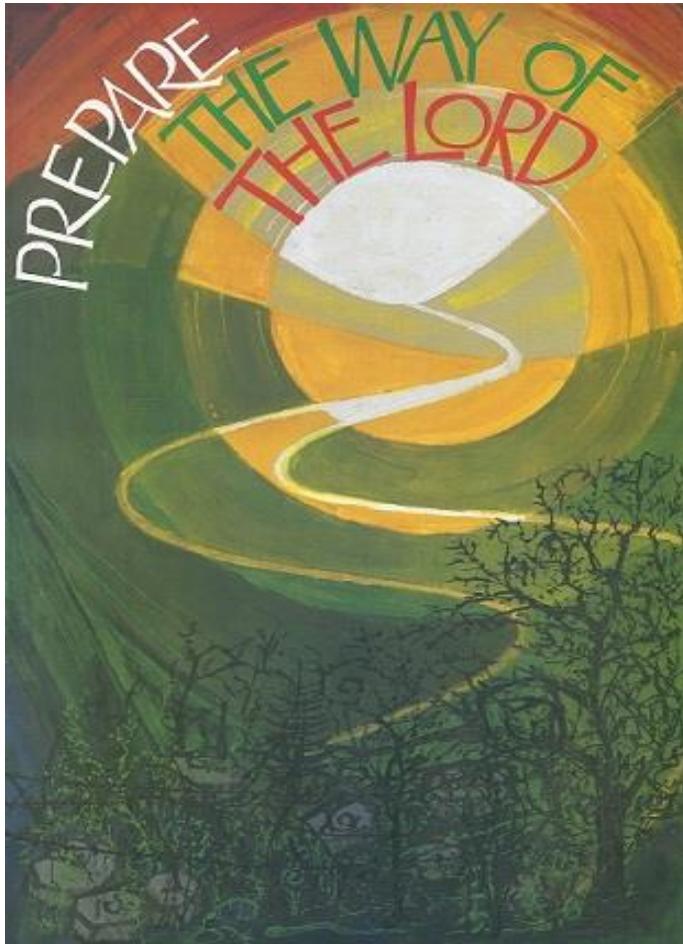




Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6th, 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 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark the Glad Sound – ELW 239 (verse 2)



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 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

R: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry –
ELW 249 vs. 1, 2, & 4



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.

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.

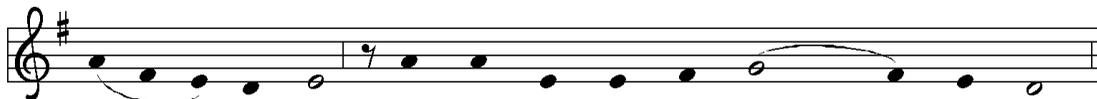
OFFERTORY RESPONSE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – ELW 257

Verse 2



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 2



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

He Came Down – ELW 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

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

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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- 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 and select the “[Contribute](#)” tab from the top menu
 - Click the “Give Now” button

- 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!