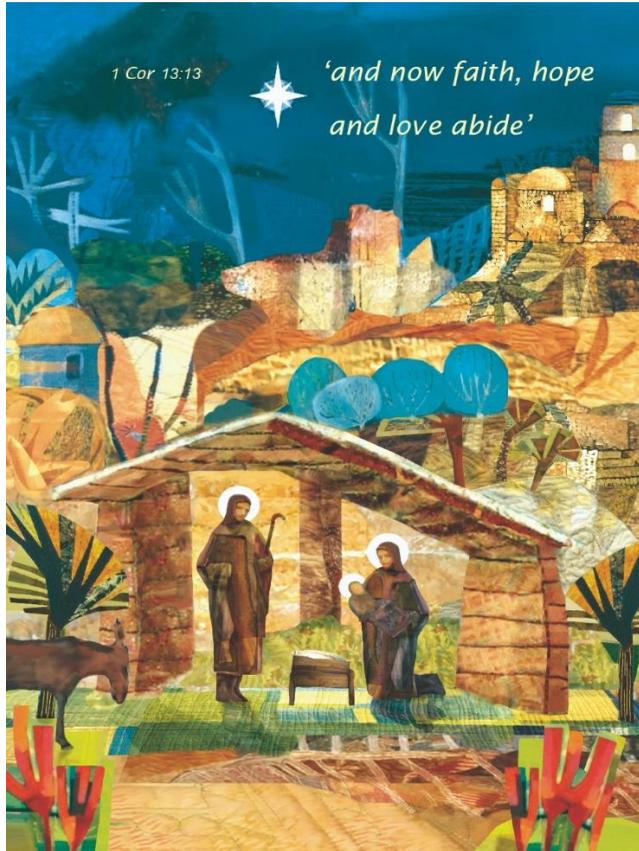




Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Christmas Eve Candlelit Service

December 24, 2022

Worship Services

10:00 AM | 7:00 PM | 9:00 PM

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome at Bethlehem. Please visit our website at www.blcenc.org for more information about the congregation. If you're visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

CHILDREN

All children are welcome in worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC). There is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. During our 10:30 AM service, after Children's Time, children ages 3 years – 6th grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you. Nursery care is available for young children during the 10:30 AM service. Ask the host for more information.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion** meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction. The pastor will dip the bread (or gluten-free wafer) into a divided chalice that has white wine or red grape juice. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary, and reading glasses are available in the narthex.

PARTICIPATION

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All hymn selections are in the Public Domain. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-706214.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

L: Gracious God, tonight we remember the miracle of your arriving,

C: How you opened up the heavens and entered our world as a child.

L: You sent your Angel to speak to Mary and Joseph, bringing news that she would bear a child,

C: Whose name would be Emmanuel, which means God-With-Us.

L: May the love of the newborn Christ surround us,

C: And release us in compassion and care for the world.

L: Together we join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed throughout the years—

C: O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

GATHERING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful – ELW 283

Verse 1: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Verse 3: Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: **Refrain.**

PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS

L: Let us pray ... Gracious Lord,

C: The coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. May we share with others the simple joy of the shepherds, the praise of the angels, and the love of the Holy Family. May the holy child of Bethlehem be born in us on this, and every day. Amen.

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem – ELW 279

Verse 1: O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Verse 4: O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

READING

Luke 2:1-12

CAROL

The First Noel – ELW 300

Verse 1: The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2: They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain .**

Verse 1: It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Verse 4: For lo! The days are has-t’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

CHRISTMAS PEACE

OFFERTORY MUSIC

GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – ELW 270

Away in a Manger – ELW 277

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CAROL OF LIGHT

Silent Night – ELW 281

*(At 9 pm the choir will begin the carol with a special song called Night of Silence.
After three verses, we will all sing verse one again without accompaniment.)*

Verse 1: Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin
mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly
peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2: Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories
stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior,
is born! Christ, the Savior, is born.

Verse 3: Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant
beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus,
Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth. *(Extinguish candles)*

BLESSING

L: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. May the Word that the angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you this night and always.

C: Amen

SENDING CAROL

Joy to the World – ELW 267

Verse 1: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 4: He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL L: Go in peace. The Savior is Born!

C: Thanks be to God!

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.



Reconciling in Christ



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website www.blcenc.org by clicking on the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, as well as recurring gifts and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**



You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas" by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account.

Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!