



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



## Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

### Worship Services

9:00 am Indoor | 10:30 am Outdoor

# GATHERING

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE LITANY

“Hope for Those Who Are Watching”

– Rev. Rich Davis

L: Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

**C: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

L: Grant us vision to behold your glory.

**C: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

L: Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

**C: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

L: Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

**C: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

L: For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

**C: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Christ, Be Our Light – ELW 715

Cantors sing verses, congregation sings refrain



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

This morning we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopefully anticipation for God to act. The second candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The third candle awakes our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

### HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah – ELW 240

One verse per week



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of eternity,

**C: You called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S TIME

# WORD

## SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Prepare the Royal Highway – ELW 264



3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom-ised king!



Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.



All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.**

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People – ELW 256

Set to the tune of ELW 712



- 1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
- 2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always, C: And also with you!

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242 – One verse per 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.

# 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.**

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – ELW 257  
One verse per week

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

3. O come, O Dayspring, come and  
cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw  
near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of  
night, and death's dark shadow put  
to flight.

2. O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on  
high, and close the path to misery.

4. O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."      Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

## SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING



- 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.

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is near!      C: **Thanks be to God!**

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

## COMFORT AT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**Wed, December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm**

We know that Christmas is not just a season of joy and good cheer. For many it can be a difficult time, especially for those who have lost loved ones. Join us in the sanctuary for a service of hope, healing, and Holden Evening Prayer.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**Sun, December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm**

Back after a brief hiatus due to COVID, we will gather in the church parking lot before heading off in groups to sing carols to members at their homes. Social distancing and safe COVID protocols will be followed as we spread cheer (not germs) in this Christmas season.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**Fri, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

10 am – Indoor service that will also be livestreamed.

6 & 8 pm – Outdoors on the grass. Please bring a chair and a blanket!

## NO CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

## ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

**Sun, December 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am**

We will have one worship service on the Sunday after Christmas this year. It will be in the sanctuary and will be livestreamed.

## ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

**Sun, January 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10 am**

We will have one worship service on the Sunday after New Year's. It will be in the sanctuary and will be livestreamed.



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
& Early Childhood Center**

## **Electronic Giving Options Update**

- Our Give Plus+ App has been replaced by **Vanco Mobile App!** **Vanco Mobile App** will be your new mobile means of financially supporting Bethlehem. To begin using it:
  - Download the “**Vanco Mobile**” app from your App Store using your smartphone or tablet
  - Search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church **Encinitas** by name
  - If you already have an account, your Username and Password remain the same. And your prior online account information and recurring gifts will automatically carry over
  - If you don’t have an account, follow the app’s “Sign Up” prompts
- BLC Website
  - Go to BLCENC.org and select the “Contribute” tab from the top menu as before
  - Click the “Give Now” button to go to our new and improved Vanco Online page.

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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 the general or various special funds
  - All donations appear on your giving statements

**Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**

# 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.

Offering gifts can be made electronically, either on our website at [www.blcenc.org](http://www.blcenc.org) by clicking on the contribute tab, or by using the **Vanco Mobile App**. There are options for one-time donations, as well as recurring gifts and special offerings.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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