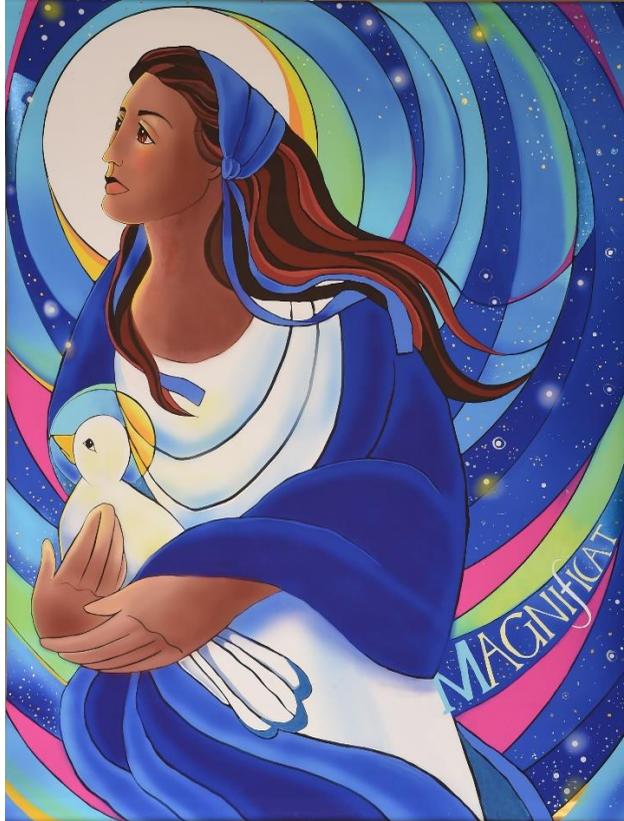




Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

Worship Services

9:00 am Indoor | 10:30 am Outdoor

GATHERING

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE LITANY

“Hope for Those Who Are Wounded”
– Rev. Rich Davis

L: Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

C: Come, Lord, and make all things new.

L: For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

C: Come, Lord, and make all things new.

L: For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

C: Come, Lord, and make all things new.

L: For relationships left in decay and neglect:

C: Come, Lord, and make all things new.

L: For any action that has wounded us, or by which we have wounded others:

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



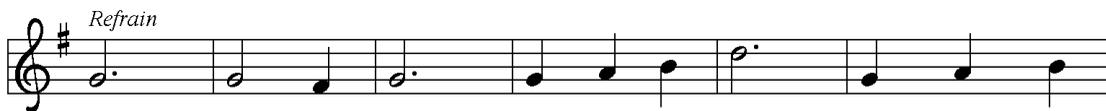
1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - 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 four candles. The first candle is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The second candle is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The third candle is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The fourth candle is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain, and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

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: Merciful God,

C: Advent reminds us that you left heaven's majesty to walk among wounded people in a broken world. We thank you that your love knows no boundaries or limitations. No wound of this earth is greater than the wounds you came to heal. For all who suffer this day, light the way, O Lord, towards the promise of healing and wholeness made known in you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Prepare the Royal Highway – ELW 264



4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Laura Ziehl



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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 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.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



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



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

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

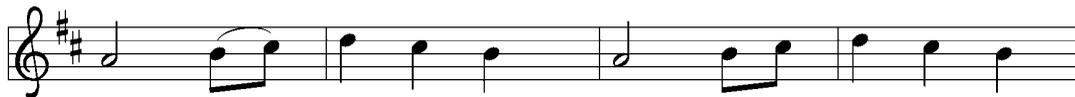
The First Noel – ELW 300 vs. 1, 2, & 4



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.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is near!

C: Thanks be to God!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Today @ 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

Friday, December 24th

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 26th @ 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 2nd @ 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.

- 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 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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