



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

10 AM Worship

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

Jesus, the Light of the World – ACS 914

One verse per week



- 1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
- 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je - sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
- 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je - sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je - sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je - sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je - sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ... Dear Child of Bethlehem,

C: As we remember the stable and the manger, the dusty roads you walked and the cross on which you died, give us the faith and courage to tell your truth and make it our own. May your story guide us and help us claim the sacredness in our own lives and stories. Help us follow you with all of our hearts and minds and souls and strength, for you are our hope and redeemer. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Laura Ziehl

HYMN OF THE DAY

It Came upon the Midnight Clear – ELW 282



- 1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
- 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

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

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord – ELW 286

One verse per week



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

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

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly – ELW 276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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. Serve the newborn King!

C: Thanks be to God!



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

"Jesus, the Light of the World" - Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845-1928, refrain; Tune WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT: Traditional, arr. George D. Elderkin. "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky" - Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872, tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, © 1958 Augsburg Fortress; Tune DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMELBLA: Danish, 19th cen., Public Domain. Other musical selections are in the Public Domain. For copyrighted selection, all rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net License No. A-706214. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-706214.

Photo Credit: <https://www.pulpitfiction.com/narrative-notes/3-20>

925 Balour Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

760•753•1026 | info@blcenc.org | www.blcenc.org