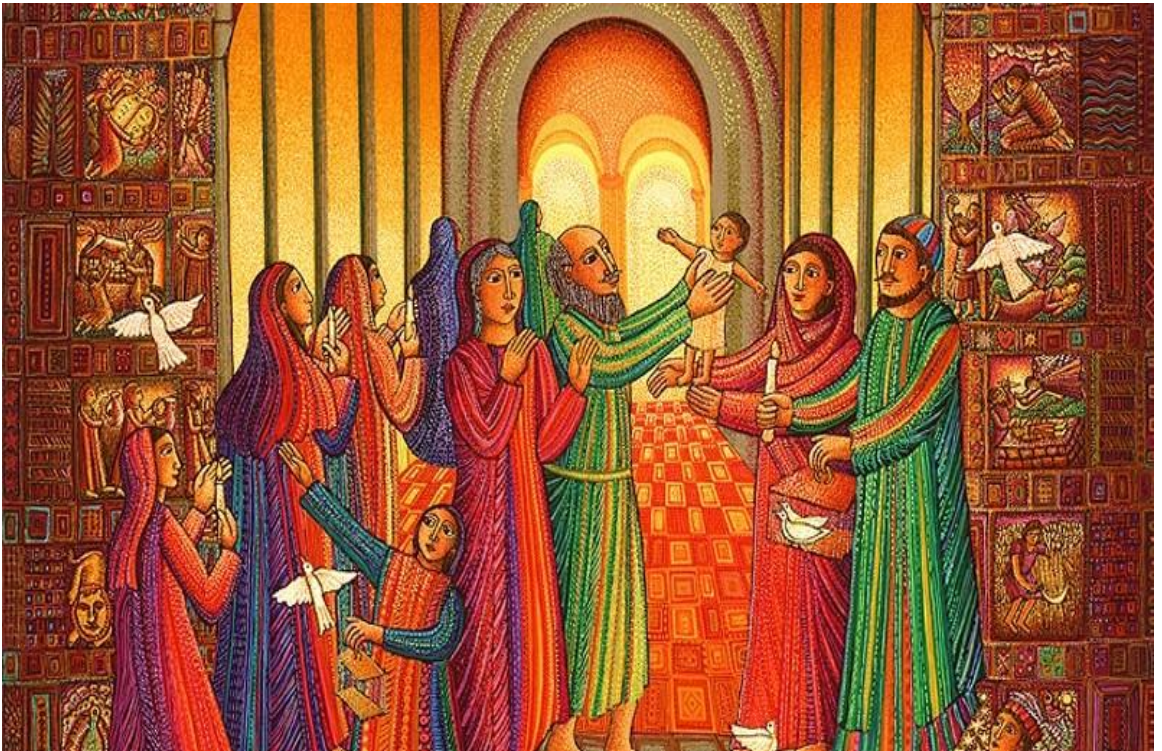




Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

10 AM Worship

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please visit our website at **www.blcenc.org** for more information about the congregation. If you are 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 the sanctuary for worship at Bethlehem. If you prefer, there is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. After Children's Time at our 10:30 AM service children ages 3 years – 6th grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion**, meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction where the pastor dips the bread into a divided chalice with white wine or red grape juice. There is a gluten-free station on the left side of the sanctuary. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

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. Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary. If you, or someone you know, identify as neurodivergent and have questions about how to participate in worship or in one of our church ministries, please feel free to ask either the pastors or the church office for help.

PRAYER

In addition to the pastors, our Stephen Ministers are always available to pray with you about whatever is on your heart this day. Please look for the folks wearing a blue name tag with the Stephen Ministry logo. Healing prayer stations are available during communion on the second Sunday of each month.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child” - Text and Tune: African American traditional, arr. Jeffrey Radford, ©1992 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.netLicenseNo.A-706214. All rights reserved. Other hymn selections are in the Public Domain. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-706214. Photo Credit: <https://www.somuchbible.com/word-studies/annotated-scripture/luke-222-40a/>

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.

GATHERING HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory – ELW 275

vs. 1 – 3



- 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ... Living God,

C: The coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 4:4-7

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Angels We Have Heard on High – ELW 289

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
Refrain
Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The musical score is written on five staves. The first two staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The third staff begins with a 'Refrain' label and continues the melody. The fourth and fifth staves complete the refrain. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear refrain section.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-40

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Laura Ziehl

HYMN OF THE DAY

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice – ELW 288



- 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!

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child – ELW 297



Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won-der-ful child.



Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and



mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.



Lis-ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo-ry, glo-ry,



glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

MEAL

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 to the Lord.

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung to Away in a Manager – ELW 277

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.

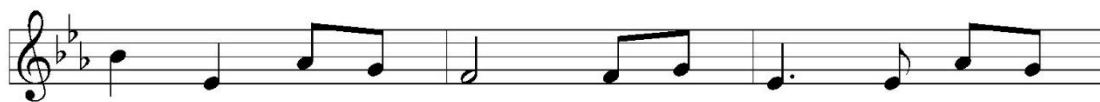
For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things Your reign. And Yours is the power; all things You maintain. To You be the glory, resounding again. From all of creation, forever! Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Holy Child Within the Manger – WOV 638



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us



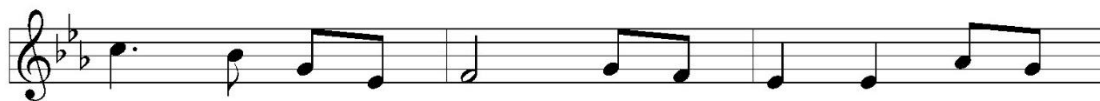
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry



stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain – ELW 290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the newborn King!

C: Thanks be to God!

All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, joyous, and above all, we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin, or the color of your hair; regardless of your gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation, you are welcome here. We honor indigenous people and are committed to the work of anti-racism and the stewardship of the creation.

If you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, Muslim, Jewish, seeking, have never set foot in a church, or are a life long Lutheran; you have a place here. If you own, rent, or have nothing at all; you are welcome here. If you are neurodivergent, 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.

Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran is an All are Welcome church.



Reconciling in Christ



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website **www.blcenc.org** under the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, 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!**



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