



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Worship Services

9:00 am Indoor | 10:30 am Outdoor

GATHERING

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE LITANY

“Hope for Those Who Wait” – Rev. Rich Davis

L: Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God’s eternal time,

C: How long, O Lord, how long?

L: For those waiting for answered prayer:

C: Grant your steadfast patience.

L: For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

C: Grant trust and confidence in your providing love.

L: For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

C: Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.

L: For all of us waiting for God’s kingdom to come:

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

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 the first candle which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering, and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of the Psalmist, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

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 all creation,

C: We declare that you are the Eternal One. We confess to you, O Lord, that we easily grow impatient, when your word to us is to wait. Ignite within us a new and everlasting hope. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Prepare the Royal Highway – ELW 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:

Refrain

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff begins with the word 'Refrain' in italics and continues the melody. The score ends with a double bar line.

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Keegan Cheleden



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

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

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 new.

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

COMMUNION HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound – ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – ELW 244

Verses 1, 3, & 4



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

DISMISSAL

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



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Center

2022 Stewardship Emphasis Update

Previously we reported that as we move towards finalizing a budget, we find ourselves facing a gap between the pledges we have received, and the money that is required to do the ministry we hope to accomplish in the coming year.

In just the past two weeks we have received over \$21,000 in additional pledges to help close that gap! We are so thankful for your stewardship and your generosity. This speaks to the faithful dedication of the members of this congregation and moves us that much closer to reaching our goal for the coming year.

There is still the possibility of some difficult decisions and cuts that may need to be made in order for us to have a balanced budget for 2022. But we are hoping that you might continue to help bridge that gap.

If you have pledged already, and could increase that pledge, we would be grateful. If you have not pledged, we invite you to consider doing so. And if increasing your pledge at this time is not possible, we understand, and value all that you do.

Thank you for your consideration and for your faithful stewardship.

Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sun, December 5th @ 4 pm

Join us on the lawn to hear some wonderful Christmas music from the different musical ensembles here at Bethlehem.

COMFORT AT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Wed, December 15th @ 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 19th @ 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 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 outdoors and livestreamed.

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

“**Christ Be Our Light**” - Text and Tune: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957, © 1993 OCP. “**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**” - Text and Tune TIF IN VELDELE Setting: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954, © 1984 Augsburg Fortress. “**Prepare the Royal Highway**” - Text: Mikael Franzen, 1722-1847, tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, © 1978 Augsburg Fortress; Tune BREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN: Swedish Folk Tune, 17th cent., Public Domain. “**Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**” - Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. “**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**” - Text: *Psalterionum Catholicarum*, Koln, 1721, tr. composite, vs. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress; Tune VENI EMANUEL: French processional, 15th cent., Public Domain. “**My Lord, What a Morning**” - Text and Tune: African-American spiritual, Public Domain. “**Hark, the Glad Sound**” - Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751, and Tune CHESTERFIELD: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820, Public Domain. “**Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**” - Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907; Tune HAF TRONESLAMPFA FARDIG: Swedish folk tune, Public Domain. For copyrighted selections, 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.

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