



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2023

Worship Services

9:00 am | 10:30 am

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 and large-print bulletins are available in the narthex. 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

"A Flickering Candle" - Text: Mark W. Oldenburg, © 2008, Morningstar Music Publications/Birnamwood Publications. "He Came Down" - Text: Cameroon traditional, Public Domain; Tune: Cameroon traditional, arr. John L. Bell, ©1990 Iona Community / WGRG (North America). "Return to God" - Text and Tune: Marilyn Haskel, ©2009 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; Tune VENI EMMANUEL: French processional, 15th cen.; Both ©1997, 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.netLicenseNo.A-706214. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.netLicenseNo.A-706214. 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://millennialpastor.ca/2021/12/05/preparing-for-messiah-is-not-fun/>

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

L: O God, let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: And ransom captive Israel.

L: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.

C: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

L: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: O God ...

C: We confess that the darkness of this world can feel as if it overshadows your light. May it not be so. May we place neighbor above self. May we not limit your good news only to those who look like us. In the deepest places of our hearts we hide our fear and shame. Shed your light in our lives. Forgive us, restore us, and make us whole.

L: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the light and peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

A Flickering Candle

2 verses/week – Cantor sings “choir” & congregation sings “refrain”

Choir: A flickering candle sheds its light in hope of dawn's victorious might,
and backward scurries cowardly night reminded of the morning.

All: Refrain

Choir: From Jesse's barren stump will spring a noble branch, a righteous King;
(Advent 1) to earth's despairing lands he'll bring both justice and salvation.

All: Refrain

Choir: God's messenger prepares the way, on sin he shines a piercing ray;
(Advent 2) he bids us greet the dawning day renewed and purified.

All: Refrain

Choir: Though night is long, do not grow weak, to all who suffer, clearly speak:
(Advent 3) "The Lord, the Savior whom you seek, behold, is come among you!"

All: Refrain

Choir: The dawn of God's redeeming grace lit Bethlehem, that humble place;
(Advent 4) now radiant beams from Jesus' face illumine all creation.

All: Refrain

Refrain:

Watch, watch, for Christ is near, the

prom - ised Son of God most dear.

Hope, hope, his light will clear the

shades of death and sin.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Hark the Glad Sound – ELW 239 vs. 1



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.

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM (10:30 AM)

Max Maverick Cotton

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He Came Down – ELW 253 vs. 1



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:33-43

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry – ELW 249

vs. 1, 2, & 4



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper – ACS 901 vs. 1



- 1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang-er, in the out-cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.
Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.
Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

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

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, Em-man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

COMMUNION HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People – ELW 256



- 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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – ELW 244 vs. 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, prepare the way!

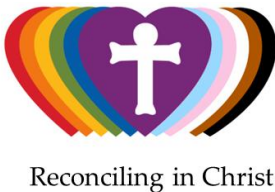
C: Thanks be to God!

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.



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!**



Bethlehem_Lutheran_Encinitas



Facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranEncinitas/

Follow us on
social media!