



# HYMN SING

## BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**Worship Leader: The Bethlehem Consistory**

**Organist: Polly Jeanty**

*If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM*

*\*= Please rise in body or spirit*

**This morning's service is a Hymn-Sing. Members of the congregation will be asked to suggest their favorite hymns and we will sing the first two verses. Please browse through your hymnal as you prepare for worship and select your favorite hymns.**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #107 (first verse) "Joy to the World"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: This is the place,

**All: The place where God is joyfully worshipped.**

One: This is the time,

**All: The time we know that God is with us in the coming year.**

One: These are the friends,

**All: The friends who celebrate with us and stay with us when the testing comes.**

One: This is the faith,

**All: The faith in Jesus Christ, which challenges us and shapes our future.**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**God of glory, angels called to shepherds with songs of your good news. Mary pondered the mystery of your goodness in the tumult of new birth. Your splendor shines from a manger where the Light of the world was born to pierce the darkness. In the fragility of flesh you are revealed to us face to face. And so we gather in worship and praise of you who is Creator, Redeemer, and Guide; our Father, Brother, and Friend; perfect and eternal, now and forever. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #306

“The Church in the Wildwood”

Chorus: Come to the church in the country  
Oh, come to the church on the hill  
No spot is so dear to my childhood  
As the little white church on the hill

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We celebrate our joys and achievements in the past year, O God.

**All: We reflect on the hardship, the unexpected change, the setbacks – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.**

One: We celebrate our friendships and family ties, O God.

**All: We reflect on the times of uncaring, poor communication, and of relationships strained – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.**

One: We celebrate the fulfillment we have found within the faith community.

**All: We reflect on missed opportunities for worship and service, and on our blindness to the work of the wider church – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.**

One: We celebrate the discipleship of Jesus Christ which is ours.

**All: We reflect on our struggle to hear the call of Jesus, to follow Jesus carefully, and to take his Word to heart – all the situations from which we may learn and grow, in faith and action.**

*(Time for silent reflection)*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: A new year, a new set of resolutions, O God!

**All: Resolved to give thanks regularly,  
resolved to reflect diligently,  
resolved to make changes appropriately,  
resolved to act faithfully.**

One: Pardon and peace are yours.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 121 (refrain) "Gloria"

Glor - - -ri-a in excelsis Deo, Glor - - -ri-a in excelsis De - o.

\*HYMNS

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### **Psalm 148**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup>He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup>Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup>Young men and women alike, old and young together!

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

\*HYMNS

## **Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

\*HYMNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY (Jingle change will go to the Christmas Fund)

One: Let us rejoice in the God of salvation through our giving. May we embody the generosity modeled by Jesus Christ, who came to serve, heal, and to restore.

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Doxology to tune of "The First Noel"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye, heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of love, we give thanks for the many blessings you have given to us during our lives. We are grateful for opportunities to celebrate life and the birth of your greatest gift, our Savior Jesus. Bless our offerings. Bless us and use all things for your glory. Amen**

SHARING OF HOPES/DREAMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

\*HYMNS

COMMISSIONING

One: We leave this church,

**All: Resolved to face the situations which test and trouble us,  
resolved to take courage from the stories of our faith,  
resolved to be a willing partner in the faith community,  
resolved to go forward confidently,  
resolved to model our New Year's way on Jesus Christ.**

One: You have nothing to fear!

## POSTLUDE

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Packets of 10 tickets for the 2024 Chili Supper are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign out for packets which you can sell. Payment is due by February 7, 2024.
- The Bethlehem Ladies are looking for help from the congregation with the washing of the communion glasses. We wash communion glasses the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and also a couple extra throughout the year for Easter, Christmas, Lent and Confirmation. There will be one Bethlehem Ladies member scheduled for each washing and we are looking for 1 or 2 more from the congregation to help. A signup sheet with all the dates for the upcoming year is in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping us out. Thank you!!
- For some time, the Merry Christians have been collecting cash register receipts only from the Kiel Piggly Wiggly store. No other area store receipts are of any use to us. We receive a monetary rebate for every dollar that is spent on groceries. Please help us help others by placing your used store receipts in the box under the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. Thank you! Bethlehem Merry Christians

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

InCourage Domestic Abuse Shelter of Manitowoc is hosting a charity event on Sat. Feb 24 – info on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

#### **2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

Deacon/Secretary - Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

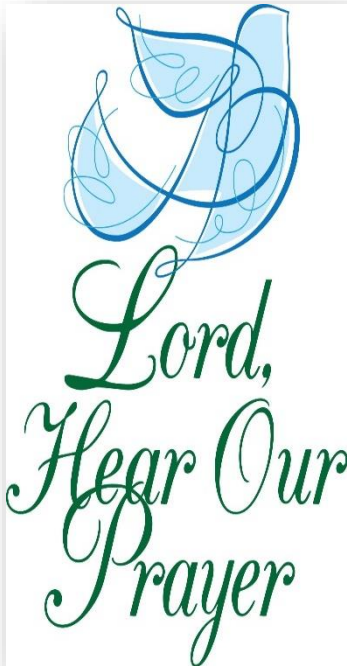
Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

### **LOOKING FOR LITURGISTS!**

Pastor Randy is looking for persons interested in leading worship services as liturgists. Lead the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and

Read a portion of the scriptures. A sign-up sheet is on the door to the pastor's office. Let Randy know if you have any questions.



**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

**Those struggling with health issues:**

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Mason Kannell                                   | Jaxxen Kane               |
| Sarah Arnold                                    | Tom Brickbauer            |
| Heidi Konen                                     | Marie Rietbrock           |
| Brenda Voland                                   | Daisy Sippel              |
| Darlene Horneck                                 | Gene Radder               |
| Helen Henning                                   | Dana (Melissa K's sister) |
| Tom Lefeber                                     | Mary Beth Molitor         |
| Jessica Horneck                                 |                           |
| Dawson Horneck                                  | Gary Steinhardt           |
| Crystal   | Neal (Louie's Brother)    |
| Elizabeth Quackenboss (Nicole Watson's Gmother) |                           |

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

**Other Concerns:**

Those affected by war in Israel.

Those affected by the earthquake in Afghanistan.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 12/31:** 9:30am Worship w/ hymn sing; ~Happy Birthday Cassie Jeanty!

**Monday 1/1:** ~Happy Birthday Kenzie Koppenhaver and Grant Taylor!

**Tuesday 1/2:** ~Happy Birthday Jayden Jeanty!

**Wednesday 1/3:** ~Happy Birthday Carol Wehrmann!

**Thursday 1/4:**

**Friday 1/5:** ~Happy Birthday Garrett Schultz!

**Saturday 1/6:**

**Sunday 1/7:** 8am Sunday School; 8:30 Book Study; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion;  
ANNUAL REPORTS DUE by 5pm;

**January Pantry Items:  
Can of Soup**