

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920-894-3332

www.bethlehemkiel.org

Sunday School - 8:00 a.m. (Sept. – May)

Worship time is 9:30 a.m.

Office hours Tuesdays 9a-12p, Wednesdays 9a-3p

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston, Pastor

(920-918-3654 - revbecky1124@gmail.com)

Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister

(920-286-2531 - randynmel5@gmail.com)

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Worship Leader:

Randy Koppenhaver

Ministers: All the People

Organist: Polly Jeanty

We hope that you find a warm welcome at Bethlehem United Church of Christ and will worship with us again soon.

Mission Statement

We are a caring community of Christians living our faith through worship, study and service to others!

2018 Consistory:

Elder /President: Bob Radder

Elder: Traci Rabe

Elder : Jennifer Friend

Deacon : Ross Westphalen

Deacon/Secretary : Natasha Verhulst

Financial Secretary : Ruthie Rumpff

Treasurer : Rick Rabe

Please use the email address below to submit information, photos, etc. for the church website:

bethlehemucckiel@gmail.com

Welcome to Bethlehem United Church of Christ! We trust that you will know God's presence here in worship. If you are visiting for the first time, please sign our guest registry outside the sanctuary doors.

A special note to families with young children:

We have a long tradition at Bethlehem of including children in worship, but we know sometimes their attention spans are not as long as ours. Children under about 6 years old are welcome to borrow a "Bethlehem Bag" from the main doors of the sanctuary, along with books or soft toys from the library, to help occupy them. If necessary, please feel free to accompany your child to the library during the service – you will be able to hear and observe the service from there.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*PLEASE STAND if you are able, where noted by an asterisk.

Please sign and pass the pew pads during worship. This will help us recognize those who might be visiting. There is one for each row. No need to pass across the aisles.

RINGING OF THE BELLS/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Dylan Jeanty & Armond Wempner)

CHORAL TO WORSHIP #92 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1 only

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Natasha Verhulst

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,

All: speak to us now.

One: God who blessed them with new life and hope,

All: bless us now.

One: God who caused them to sing songs of praise,

All: cause us to sing.

One: God who loves beyond measure,

All: we are here to worship you.

INVOCATION

O God our savior,

Our spirits rejoice in you.

For you have looked with favor on your children.

You have done great things.

You have scattered the proud.

You have lifted up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things.

You have kept the promises made to our ancestors.

Your mercy is known from generation to generation.

And so we praise you and magnify your holy name. Amen.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

One Today let our hearts join together as we light the candle of Love.

Many We seek God's love to help us heal a broken world.

One Love is the strength of a young woman destined to bear the Light of the world.

Many Love is the humility of a young man called to play the unexpected role of an earthly father.

One Love is protecting the innocent.

Many Love is embodying the hope of righting the wrongs in the world.

One Today, as we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love, we remember the path we traveled this Advent season. May our love be fueled with the Hope, Peace, and Joy promised through the birth of the Christ child.

Many We are ready for the light!

OPENING HYMN #83

“People, Look East”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the incarnation, you offer us gifts that are far greater than we deserve or can imagine. In you we receive love, freedom and forgiveness, yet we turn away. We become so absorbed with ourselves and those closest to us that we neglect to show your love in the world. We get so caught up in the lies of our culture, that we fail to accept the freedom you give us. We become so focused on our need to be right, that we miss opportunities offer your forgiveness. Pardon us for the ways we have fallen short and renew in us a spirit of new life.

Silence

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth:

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
and change our lives with your justice.**

O God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed us with the bread of tears,
and given us tears to drink in full measure.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
and heal our lives with your compassion.**

Reveal to us your Promised One,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
**Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
and delight our lives with your love.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Christ, the light of God's love shines in our hearts,
and we are forgiven and given strength to forgive.
**Let us give thanks that in Jesus, Emmanuel,
God is truly with us. Amen**

*RESPONSE #558

"Gloria Patri"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Micah 5:2-5

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my

womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Sing Out, My Soul

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Magnificat

Sing out, my soul. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Sing out, my soul. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Sing out and Ma - gni - fi -

glo - ri - fy the Lord who sets us free. Sing out, my soul. cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num. Ma - gni - fi - cat.

Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord God! Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!

*May be sung as a canon.

This canonic chant from the Taizé Community is based on the opening phrase of Mary's song when she visited her relative Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:39-56). Both Eastern and Western churches have used the full text for many centuries as part of daily prayers.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1978
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1978
Text and Music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

MAGNIFICAT (Taizé)
Irregular

MESSAGE

HYMN #90

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ...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.

RESPONSE

“Masithi”

**Amen, we praise your name O God. Amen, we praise your name, O God.
Amen, amen, amen, amen. Amen, we praise your name or God.**

OFFERTORY

"O Holy Night" - Allyson Jeanty, Polly Jeanty
(Jingle Change goes to the Sunday School for the Adopt-a-Family)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

**Hope in the God who reigns above,
Who holds us all in steadfast love;
Whose spirit blows across the earth,
Preparing us for second birth. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

HYMN #112

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

BENEDICTION

Let us go forth with eyes to see and ears to hear and voices to proclaim:

In the ordinary and the vulnerable: **God-with-us!**

In the challenge of the unexpected: **God-with-us!**

In love giving life in justice and mercy: **God-with-us!**

In the work of peace: **God-with-us!**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Info. for next Sunday's bulletin is due to Randy/Melissa Koppenhaver by Tuesday night. randynmel5@gmail.com or 286-2531.)

- The December jingle change (weeks 2-4) will be used to purchase additional items for the adopted family
- *MISSION TRIP 2019- Henderson, Kentucky. July 14-20, 2019 \$50. Non-refundable reservation fee due January 15. Make check out to Bethlehem Missions and give to Rev. Becky.*
- If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please make sure to contact Rev. Johnston or Randy.

The Bethlehem Blurb email comes out each Thursday. If you signed up and you are not receiving it, please check your "junk" mail or "spam" folder. If you'd like to receive it, you may sign up on our webpage: www.bethlehemkiel.org

Community Announcements:

*(Please check the bulletin board for more details. **Community events are published in our bulletin as space and time permits.** For best results, email or call the bulletin secretary)*

- None Submitted

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 12/23: 8am Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship
Monday 12/24: 7pm Christmas Eve worship;
Tuesday 12/25: 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Mike Wilharms!*
Wednesday 12/26: NO Confirmation class;
Thursday 12/27: *Happy Birthday Ryan Jeanty!*
Friday 12/28:
Saturday 12/29: *Happy Birthday Dawn Wirtz!*
Sunday 12/30: NO Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship

Pantry item: Box of Cereal

Inclement Weather Notification

If church services or events are cancelled due to inclement weather, notice will be available:

- On the **Bethlehem United Church of Christ** Facebook page @*bucckiel*
- Emailed automatically to all recipients of the *Bethlehem Blurb* email
- On television channel/webpage WGBA - NBC 26

Please make at least one choice below about how you wish to receive notification:

___ I will use any of the above sources, and wish no additional contact.

___ I would like to receive an email. Address(es)* _____

___ I would like to receive a text message. Number(s)* _____

___ I would like to receive a phone call. Number(s)* _____

*** All collected information will be kept confidential and used for weather-related notification only**

Name(s) _____