



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, December 18, 2022**

**Worship led by: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

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

**\*= Please rise in body or spirit**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBER MOMENT and VOTE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

CHANCE FOR CHILDREN TO OFFER CHRISTMAS WISHES

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19)**

One: We come seeking a sign from You, the One who sits upon the throne.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

One: We come seeking to worship You, the One who dwells with us always.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

One: We come seeking to witness your might, a child to be born in a coming night.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Inspired by Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19)

**God of love –**

**Ferocious love, fierce love, unending love, everlasting love –**

**We gather in place with gratitude for the ways your love has  
Called us out of bleakness and into your marvelous.**

**We know of your renown, and we stand in awe of your work.**

**In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known.**

**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel.**

**Stir up your might in this place.**

**Give us life, and we will call on your name**

**as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY JUNIOR CHRISTMAS POEM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader:

We gather together in this season of Advent

anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love  
amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

*Time of silence*

God, our shepherd – Restorer of our souls,

In a world full of hopelessness,

We have sometimes forgotten that you have shown your hope in endless  
ways.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your hope.**

In the mirey mess of the world,

We have sometimes neglected to lean into your peace that transcends  
comprehension.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your peace.**

In a culture shrouded in doom and despair,

We have often forgotten how to fight for our joy.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your joy.**

In a moment when it is easier to hate others because they believe differently,  
Love differently, live differently, vote differently – we have forgotten how to  
love beyond the bounds of what separates us.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your love.**

**Stimulate our memory, O divine Creator.**

**Remind us that even in our weakness, you are mighty.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader:

God has never left us nor forsaken us.  
God is Emmanuel in the face of crisis,  
Emmanuel, in the midst of calamity  
Emmanuel, in the presence of tribulation.  
God with us, Helping our unbelief, Bringing us back to life,  
Reminding us that we are light.

**We celebrate this good news. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE                    “Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING - (December's Jingle Change supports the Christmas Fund, which aids retired, lower-income clergy. There are also envelopes in the Fellowship Hall for those wishing to make a larger designated offering.)

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE by Sunday School

(Written by a former Sunday School student)

**We bring an offering unto thee, with a humble heart.  
Here in this church, thy faith receive – as this new week we start.  
It's better to give than to receive, so give all that you can.  
In the name of God believe, and be a witness to all men.  
All the gifts come from above, to us children here below.  
He sends us food and lots of love, so give an offering thanks to show.  
Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with... “Jesus Lord of Love... **We open our hearts to you”**

**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.**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

SCENE 1 - MARY

SONG

**O Come O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here. Until the Son of God appears.**

**Refrain**

**Rejoice Rejoice Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**O Come Thou wisdom from on high. And order all things far and nigh.  
To us the path of knowledge show. And cause us in her ways to go.**

**Refrain**

SCENE 2 – JOSEPH

SONG

**Come Thou long expected Jesus. Born to set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.**

**Born Thy people to deliver. Born a child and yet a King.  
Born to reign in us forever. Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.**

SCENE 3 - INNKEEPER

SONG

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep. The silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight.**

**O Holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.  
O come to us abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

SCENE 4 – SHEPHERDS

SONG

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground.  
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around. And glory shone  
around.**

**Fear not said he, for mighty dread, had seized their troubled mind.  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, to you and all mankind. To you and all mankind.**

SCENE 5 - KINGS

## SONG

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we  
traverse a far.

Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

### Refrain

*O star of wonder, star of night. Star of royal  
beauty bright.*

*Westward leading, still proceeding. Guide us to  
Thy perfect light.*

Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a  
Deity nigh.

Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship  
Him, God on high.

### Refrain

## SCENE 6 – CAST

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Merry Christmas from the Sunday School!**

-There will **not** be Sunday School on December  
25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Saturday, Jan. 14 – Ordination of Nicole Herda-  
Grace UCC, Two Rivers – 11am

### Cast:

Mary                   Kylie Brockway

Joseph                Blake Holz

Innkeeper            Tyson Arnold

Shepherds           Melanie Voland  
Ellie Holz  
Courtney Riesterer

Wise Men            Aliyah Arnold  
Jake Riesterer  
Ryan Holz  
Ellie Holz

Angels                Hallie Brockway  
Lillie Brockway  
Emerson Witkowski

Teachers:            Steven Voland  
Jennifer Brockway  
Sarah Arnold

Music:                Kathy Bowe

Thanks to the parents of our  
students for their support as we  
prepared for today's program!

## **Bethlehem's Spiritual Leadership Team:**

### **Reverend Roy Rogers**

Phone: 920.428.0183 or email:

[rogersr671@gmail.com](mailto:rogersr671@gmail.com)

### **Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister**

Phone: 920.286.2531 or

email:

[randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

## **2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members**

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 – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family**

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)

### **Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

#### **Joys:**

Piercy Edward Hoepfer Heugel was born 11/6/22 – Parents: Sage and Emily Heugel, Proud Grandparents: Scott & Jane Umland

#### **Families who have lost loved ones:**

Lincoln Boris (Grandson of Kert & Christi Henning)  
Michael (Grandson of Shirley/ Nephew of Kathy and Kaye)  
Doris Schuler (Mother of Linda Rabe)  
Steve Rumpff  
DuWayne Ninmer  
Jane Markelz

#### **Those struggling with health issues:**

Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Finn (a young boy with cancer)	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Kenzie Koppenhaver
Dana (friend of Melissa K)	Dawson Horneck
John Buchholz (Marie's brother)	Gary Steinhardt
Sandra Tesch	

**Those unable to worship with us:** Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer



## The Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful Again

1. Worship Fully... Because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus
2. Spend Less... and free your resources for things that really matter
3. Give More... of your hands, your words, your heart
4. Love All... including the poor, the sick, and the forgotten

Weekly Reflection: Read John 1:14

Our text from John 1 reminds us that although Jesus was the only begotten Son of God, the eternal and living Word, He chose to come and dwell with us.

The Greek word that we so preciously translate as dwelt among us reminds us that He 'tabernacled with us' or as it has been put, Jesus has pitched His tent with us. He's taking up residence.

From here He experienced life in every way as we know it and through all of those experiences the glory and grace of God shown through. No matter how humble our circumstances, how desperate our lives, this truth remains: God is with us and His grace and glory will shine through.

It may be difficult to see or imagine but He is there. Into a rough straw hewn manger came One from glory to save the world, to save us.

REFLECT: Where in the midst of this Christmas season do you need to find Jesus most? Where do you long for His fellowship? Try to picture Him already there.

PRAY: Lord, Meet us where we are today and draw us nearer to your heart. Help us never to forget that You dwell among us and You long for fellowship with us. May we notice You today. Amen

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### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 12/18:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Children's Program and congregational meeting \*\*Spirit News Due!\*\*

**Monday 12/19:**

**Tuesday 12/20:** ~Happy Birthday Merlin Nimmer, Rachel Suttner, and Judy Brockway!

**Wednesday 12/21:**

**Thursday 12/22:**

**Friday 12/23:**

**Saturday 12/24:** 7pm Christmas Eve Worship

**Sunday 12/25:** 9:30am Christmas Worship w/ Communion

**December Pantry Items: Box of Cereal**