



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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December 24, 2022

Worship led by: Rev. Roy Rogers

Organist: Kathy Bowe

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

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

Lessons and Carols:

A Traditional Candlelight Service for Christmas Eve

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE "The First Noel" Kathy Bowe and Polly Jeanty

***OPENING LITANY:**

One: The people who walked in darkness.

All: Sometimes we walk in darkness.

One: have seen a great light.

All: We live in darkness and in light.

One: those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them has light shines.

All: Whenever we find ourselves in the night, God's morning dawns anew.

One: You have increased the nation's joy.

All: The people rejoice at the time of harvest.

One: for the yoke of their burden you have broken.

All: The pressure, the tension, the anxiety of the past fade as we gather in this place.

One: For a child has been born for us.

All: God's child has come to be with us –

One: One who will rule with peace and justice forever and ever,

All: And through whose love we are all children of God.

*HYMN #100 vs 1-2 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

O God, we come filled with excitement to hear the Christmas story again, on this holiest of nights. Open wide the crowded inns of our hearts, that we may see with new eyes, what happened that night so long ago. Open our ears that we may hear your voice in the voices of those around us. Fill us with wonder and mystery that we may experience your presence with us now, we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Lector: Steven Volland

One: The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over! We have lit four candles that remind us about waiting in hope and peace and joy and love.

All: These candles remind us that God promises to be with us, to comfort us, to help us rejoice, and to teach us to love.

One: Tonight we light one more candle, and we call it the Christ candle. This candle reminds us of all God has done for us. God fills us with good things, like hope and peace and joy and love. God is faithful to us. God is with us, now and always.

All: O God, come, lead us through our lives.

Give us courage to spread your light in the world. Amen.

HYMN #111 vs 1-2

"O, Little Town of Bethlehem"

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector: Scott Umland

HYMN # 121 vs1-2

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Second Reading Psalm 96 Lector: Jane Umland

HYMN # 107 vs1-2 "Joy to the World"

Third Reading Philippians 2:5-11 Lector: Traci Rabe

HYMN # 133 vs1-2 "Lo How A Rose..."

Fourth Reading Luke 2:1-15 Lector: Will Mathes

SOLO "O Holy Night" Allyson Jeanty and Polly Jeanty

Sermon "Luther's Christmas Sermons"

HYMN # 168 "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" (1st verse soloist)

CALL TO THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

**To God, all glorious heav'nly Light
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God who gives life to all things, and richly provides us with everything,
use these our offerings to spread your light of wonder and peace in the
world. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER**)

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.

*CAROL

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

(During the HYMN we will light our candles. Tilt the non-lit candle.

Pastor Roy and all who can sing the verse 1 in German please do so)

Vs1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar
Hoder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Vs 2. Silent Night Holy Night
All is calm All is bright
Round yon virgin Mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Vs3 Silent night holy night shepherd's quake at the site.
Glory's stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah
Christ the savior is born
Christ the savior is born.

V4 Silent Night Holy Night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at thy birth
Jesus Lord at thy birth

*DECLARATION John 3:16-17 Lector: Steven Voland

*CAROL #110 "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Merry Christmas from the Sunday School!

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

Annual reports are due on January 8. Email to Traci Rabe @ trabefamily5@gmail.com

The annual meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 29 Following a brief worship.

WISE Initiative for Awareness of Mental Health Concerns

Pastor Randy is forming a study group to determine if Bethlehem might be interested in the WISE Initiative (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged). This initiative aims to seek ways in which congregations can support and advocate for individuals affected by mental illness, brain injuries, etc. The group would meet on selected Sunday mornings before church in January and February. We will study the issue of mental health, perhaps through a book study or guest speakers. Next, we would determine if we are willing to commit to a WISE "designation" and develop a covenant explaining how we will support people with mental health concerns. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall if you are interested in participating in this exploratory study group.

*Thank you to Mike Hartmann, owner of The Laundromat, LLC in New Holstein! He sent a \$50 kickback to Loads of Love for using his business!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Bethlehem's Spiritual Leadership Team:

Reverend Roy Rogers

Phone: 920.428.0183 or email:

rogersr671@gmail.com

**Randy Koppenhaver,
Licensed Lay Minister**

Phone: 920.286.2531 or
email:

randynmel5@gmail.com

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder - Open Position - Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthy cows.com

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

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 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 Nimmer

Jane Markelz

Those struggling with health issues:

Bob Radder

Finn (a young boy with cancer)

Doreen Schmidt

Tom Lefeber

Jessica Horneck

Dana (friend of Melissa K)

John Buchholz (Marie's brother)

Daisy Sippel

Darlene Horneck

Helen Henning

Hattie Lucille

Sandra Tesch

Dawson Horneck

Gary Steinhardt



Those unable to worship with us: Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer