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Saturday, December 25, 2021

Worship Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers

Organist: Polly Jeanty

Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines

- Masks = You decide what's best for you, your loved ones and those around you.
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- Please wait for an usher to dismiss you after the service.
- For those who wish to congregate, you are asked to do so outside
- Please stay home if you or a member of your family is not feeling well.
- Scrip will be available for purchase on the first and third Sundays. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 9:6, Revelation 12:10)

Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Christ have come.

**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and his name shall be called,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

— Robert I. Vasholz, from Calls to Worship: A Pocket Resource, posted on the Resources for Your Ministry website.

* OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. IN HIS NAME, AMEN

*OPENING HYMN #123 vs. 1-2 "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:14

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

Isaiah 9:6

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:1-19

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do

not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

SOLO “Love is Christmas” Laura Mueller with Polly Jeanty, Piano

SERMON

*HYMN #138 vs. 1&2 “What Child is This?”

CALL TO THE OFFERING

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. God’s gift in the Christ child arrived in a small town, a humble stable, to a couple no one invited in – and still that gift changes lives. Our gifts to God this Christmas share in that miracle.

*RESPONSE “Gloria”

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous and loving God, your gift to us in Christ Jesus still draws us to manger and opens our hearts with wonder. Bless our gifts in his name, so that they may draw others to your love and the blessing we have found in the One born for us. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(w/ gluten-free bread and juice. If you desire a prepared chalice and wafer kit, please let an usher know)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Each Sunday Christians throughout the world assemble in various locations to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. They gather around bread and wine in a meeting that the early Christians called the "Lord's Supper" (Corinthians 11:20) or the "Breaking of Bread" (Acts 2:42). This has been the practice of God's people since the time that the Lord Jesus Himself requested it:

And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." – Luke 22:19-20

In obedience to this command of the Lord, we gather each week to observe the Lord's Supper. In determining the manner in which to express our worship, we have sought guidance from the principles and pattern found in the New Testament. Let us receive communion together.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

I pray that this holy Communion, far from condemning me to punishment, will plead effectively for my pardon. Let it be the armor of my faith and the shield of my good will. Let it purify me from my bad habits and put an end to my evil desires. Let it increase my charity and patience, humility and obedience, and all the virtues. Let it defend me against the traps of all my enemies, visible and invisible. Let it calm the passions of my body and spirit. Let it join me firmly to you, the one true God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with you.

And I pray that you will lead me, sinful as I am, to the banquet where you, with your Son and Holy Spirit, are to your saints true light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy, complete gladness, and perfect happiness.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL 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.

BENEDICTION (based on Psalm 96 and Luke 2)

POSTLUDE *(Please wait to be dismissed by the ushers. Thank you.)*

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Birth of Raegan Michael Hoeffner- daughter of Tyler & Tia Hoeffner – Grandparents Joe and Doreen Schmidt

Families who have lost loved ones:

Tim Nohl

Those struggling with health issues:

Elizabeth Loose

Louie Bowe

Jane Markelz

Steve Rumpff

Everett Henning

Helen Henning

Dale and Darlene Horneck

Hattie Lucille

Warren Fidlin

Mother of Dawn Wirtz

Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)

Macullen Schnell

Olivia Marie

Jessica Horneck

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer, Leah Henning – Deployed to Japan

2021 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@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@forhealthycows.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

DECEMBER'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING SUPPORTS THE CHRISTMAS FUND. "The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees."

There will be no printed envelopes this year. Donate larger gifts at <https://www.pbucc.org/christmas-fund-home>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our homebound members! - Unfortunately, Field of Dreams is on quarantine for the rest of 2021. We'll let you know when visits can resume.

- Can you help shovel snow? Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for the month you can help keep the church sidewalks cleared.

Leah Henning has been deployed to Japan. Send cards and letters to: (standard US postage rates)
Sgt. Leah Henning
31st MEU CE S-3
Unit 35621
FPO, AP 96385-5621

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Saturday 12/25: 9:30a Christmas Worship w/ Communion

Sunday, 12/26: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP

Monday 12/27: *Happy Birthday Ryan Jeanty!*

Tuesday 12/28: 6:30pm Consistory

Wednesday 12/29: *Happy Birthday Dawn Wirtz!*

Thursday 12/30:

Friday 12/31: *Happy Birthday Cassie Jeanty!*

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

Sunday 1/2: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL; 9:30a Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Jayden Jeanty and Girlie Westphalen!*

Pantry item: Can of Soup