



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, December 25, 2022**

**Worship led by: Rev. Roy Rogers**

**Organist: Polly Jeanty**

*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

PRELUDE "Silent Night/Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Polly Jeanty and Kathy Bowe

\*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**

Bible Reading. Like 2:13-20

## STORIES, CAROLS AND READINGS

### I. CAROLS OF MYSTERY

#### A. "What Child is This?" #138

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1-2

#### B. "Coventry Carol" #141

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1-4

### II. CAROLS OF WONDER

#### A. "Angels From the Realms of Glory" #125

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1-2.

#### B. "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #130

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1-2

### III. CAROLS OF PEACE

#### A. "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear " # 128

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1,4

#### B. "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen " #140

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1-2

### IV. CAROLS OF PRAISE

#### A. "Go, Tell It On the Mountain " # 110

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1-3

#### B. "Angels We Have Heard on High" #121

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1-2

## V. CAROLS OF JOY

### A. Solo "Lifesong" Casting Crowns

1. Story
2. Solo

### B. "Joy to the World" # 107

1. Story
2. Sing vs. 1-2

## 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. Grape Juice is in the center ring. Hold the elements until all are served)

## 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

\*HYMN # 107 vs 3-4 "Joy to the World"

POSTLUDE "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"  
Polly Jeanty and Kathy Bowe

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

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

\*Annual reports are due on January 8. Email to Traci Rabe @ [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

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

**Reverend Roy Rogers**

Phone: 920.428.0183 or email:

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

**Randy Kopenhagen,**

**Licensed Minister**

Phone: 920.286.2531 or  
email:

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

\*The annual meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 29 following a brief worship.

\*Bethlehem will be leading worship at Field of Dreams on Thursday, Jan. 12 @ 10:30am. We need singing voices! Please join us and let Randy know you will be coming!

#### 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

#### **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	Sandra Tesch
Dana (friend of Melissa K)	Dawson Horneck
John Buchholz (Marie's brother)	Gary Steinhardt

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

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

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

**Monday 12/26:**

**Tuesday 12/27:** ~Happy Birthday Ryan Jeanty!

**Wednesday 12/28:**

**Thursday 12/29:** ~Happy Birthday Dawn Wirtz!!

**Friday 12/30:**

**Saturday 12/31:** ~Happy Birthday Cassie Jeanty!

**Sunday 1/2:** 9:30am Worship with Hymn Sing! NO communion! ~Happy Birthday Kenzie Koppenhaver and Grant Taylor!

**December Pantry Items: Box of Cereal**