



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, December 4, 2022

Worship led by: Randy Koppenhaver

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13*)

One: A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump,
And a branch shall spring from roots.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.

Let all the people give God praise.

One: A leader soon comes who will lift the poor
With righteousness around his waist.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.

Let all the people give God praise.

One: A child soon comes from an innocent place
With wisdom and might he'll lead the way.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.

Let all the people give God praise.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**God of wisdom and understanding, of peace and promise,
you are the giver of life and you live in us.
You have welcomed us as your children,
and called us to live out your image with hospitality toward each other.
In Jesus Christ, you offer us living water
to wash away our sin and sorrow,
and call us back to paths of justice and righteousness.
With the Holy Spirit, you baptize us for service and life in community,
refreshing us each day with your presence and purpose.
Glory and honor and praise be yours,
Creator, Christ and Spirit,
this day and every day, now and evermore. Amen.**

***HYMN #133 all**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader:

**We gather together in this season of Advent
anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love.**

**God, we admit that we do not always stand as a signal for your
righteousness.**

**In the hustle and bustle of our lives, we have left little room to witness—
to be your hands and feet in a world that needs us now more than ever.
In the warm belly of comfort, many of us have relaxed in the layers of our
privilege, Not attending to the needs of the least of these.**

Forgive us, O God.

Give us the courage to stand tall,

**to follow in the footsteps of the one who came to secure justice for the
poor, bring equity to the meek, and condemn the wicked with his lips.**

And on that day, we shall stand as a signal to the people. (silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

**Leader: Beloved, know that God’s grace and mercy abound, and in God and
Christ, we are forgiven.**

Let us live into this gift. 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.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,

and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name for ever;
may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

SERMON

*HYMN (See insert)

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ADVENT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Written by: Rev. Andrew O’Neil, St. Paul’s United Church, Riverview, New Brunswick)

INVITATION

PREFACE

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE STORY

In the rich dark of winter, God makes an astounding promise: “I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up.” (Jeremiah 33:15)...

... We gather at this table, praying that crooked ways be made straight, that valley’s peace be lifted up and mountain’s might brought low so that all God’s people might rejoice together, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first night...

... With your people of all times and places, we await with hope the fulfillment of your vision for all creation.

Bless us, O God, and these your gifts. Encourage us to share your life and love, which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy.

Transform us, God, and your world, and bless your children:

those who feel alone or afraid...

those who whose souls and homes are broken by violence...

those who will go hungry, thirsty, and cold tonight...

those who long only to hear that they are loved...

God made known in Jesus Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger. At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always, that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives, and become hosts to God's presence and people.

God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world, where the lonely and longing gather. Lead us to the mangers of our time, where hope and renewal are born again. Make us heralds of your love and joy. Amen.

RESPONSE #535 v. 1

"When Jesus Died to Save Us"

CALL TO THE OFFERING - (Offerings and Jingle Change are collected before and after worship. The basket is located near the double doors to the sanctuary. 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 RESPONSE
Doxology
 For Advent

Em G C D7 G D G C G
 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em
 here___ be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
 Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a signal to the people that there is a God who saves, heals, and sets free. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: "God of peace with justice," response: **Make us better stewards of the gifts you give us.**

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.

*CLOSING SONG

“Go Now in Peace”

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.
Know he will guide you, in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
A-men, A-men, A-men.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Worship elements from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-2a-december-4/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Merry Christmas from the Sunday School!

Mark your calendars!

- The annual **Sunday School Christmas program** will be on **December 18, 2022 @ 9:30** during the worship service.
- There will **not** be Sunday School on December 25th and January 1st.

Giving Tree

This season, the Sunday School are collecting gifts for a local family in need. There are ornaments on the tree in the entrance that have items to select to purchase. The Sunday School will be purchasing the families need for pots and pans, and we are hoping our church families can help with their other needs (and wishes!) for this family. What a great opportunity to give loving and generously this season. Feel free to select an ornament, purchase the item, and return it (unwrapped) to church by December 18.

- **The Bethlehem Ladies are taking orders for Poinsettias.** They are \$9 each and the colors available are red, white, and pink. **Today is the last Sunday to order Poinsettias.** The sign up is on the table in the fellowship hall. Cash or checks to “Bethlehem Ladies” can be given to Jeanette Wriedt. Thank you!!!

**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

- For many years Bethlehem UCC has supported Heifer International through an auction hosted by the Bethlehem Merry Christians. In order to make a donation in 2022, the Merry Christians are asking you to make a monetary gift by Sunday, December 11. Checks can be made payable to: Bethlehem Merry Christians. And mailed to: Lora Mathes, 21607 CTH C, Kiel, WI 53042. Thanks in advance for your generosity to help those in need. ~Bethlehem Merry Christians

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sunday, Dec. 11 – Handbell Christmas Concert – Ebenezer UCC, Chilton – 3pm
- 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

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

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

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



ADVENT

153 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

F C F $\frac{Gm}{F} \frac{C7}{E} F$ C Dm C $\frac{F}{A} \frac{C7}{G}$ F $\frac{F}{A} \frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Dm C F

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

F C F $\frac{Gm}{F} \frac{C7}{E} F$ C Dm C $\frac{F}{A} \frac{C7}{G}$ F $\frac{F}{A} \frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Dm C F

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Am Dm Gm7 $\frac{C7}{E} \frac{Dm7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{E} \frac{Dm}{E}$ $\frac{F}{A} \frac{G\sharp}{A}$ Gm Bb maj7 Csus C

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

$\frac{F}{A}$ F6 $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{E} \frac{Bm7(b9)}{D} \frac{C7}{E}$ $\frac{Bb}{D}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F7}{A}$ Bb $\frac{F}{A}$ Bb $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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 Matthew 1:18-21

Almost every family has black sheep. A rebel who can't seem to toe the line, another is making news because of an embarrassing antic. They are the ones in the family picture that others step away from so they are not too closely affiliated.

And then there's Mary. Mary is found to be with child before marriage – a stigma in any society. We know how that news landed on her fiancé Joseph. He was embarrassed. He had in mind to leave her “quietly.”

In His sovereignty, God cleared up the matter for Joseph in a dream, but what of the rest of Mary's family? Her closest friends? Her community? It's likely that Jesus walked under a cloud of shame all His life because some could never accept such a fantastical story as a virgin conception. In their minds, Mary, and Jesus Himself, would always be black sheep.

Jesus really had no other option than to come through a family tree with broken branches, a family tree like yours and mine. Every one of us is a black sheep. But thank God for the perfect Lamb who came to save black sheep like you and me.

REFLECT: Who comes to your mind as the black sheep of your family? Is it you? How does Jesus' mission to save people from their sins change your view of black sheep?

PRAY: Jesus, Thank You for coming as a perfect Lamb to save black sheep like me – wash me with Your precious blood and make me white as snow. Amen

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This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 12/4: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; 11am Bethlehem Ladies Meeting and Christmas Party ~Happy Birthday Kelly Biwan and Kristen Schmitt!

Monday 12/5: ~Happy Birthday Declan Radder and Gary Steinhardt!!

Tuesday 12/6: ~Happy Birthday Marcy Ninmer!!

Wednesday 12/7: 6pm Confirmation Class; ~Happy Birthday Stephen Deignan, Jr., and Jeff Holz!

Thursday 12/8:

Friday 12/9:

Saturday 12/10:

Sunday 12/11: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship;

December Pantry Items: Box of Cereal