



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

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**Sunday, November 27, 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 Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:15)**

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!"

**All: We come today with eager expectation. Our feet are standing within God's gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation. Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation for you are already and always  
with us—Emmanuel, even before the child was born. >>>>>  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN #83 all           “People Look East” (sing top line on second page)**

**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  
amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty. Let us pray to be  
transformed...**

**Dear God, In a world full of hopelessness,  
We have sometimes forgotten that you are our hope.  
Consumed by the chaos of the world,  
We lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace.  
We cling to the stony roads and the bitter rods  
Felt in days when unborn hope had died;  
We’ve forgotten that you promised us hope for a future.  
So, stimulate our memory, dear God.  
Remind us of that hope you assured us of.  
Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting. (silence)**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**Let us know that God gives us unmerited hope for a future, peace like a river,  
joy everlasting, and love. No misstep can separate us from the gifts of  
God. 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

### **Romans 13:11-14**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **Matthew 24:36-44**

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

## SERMON

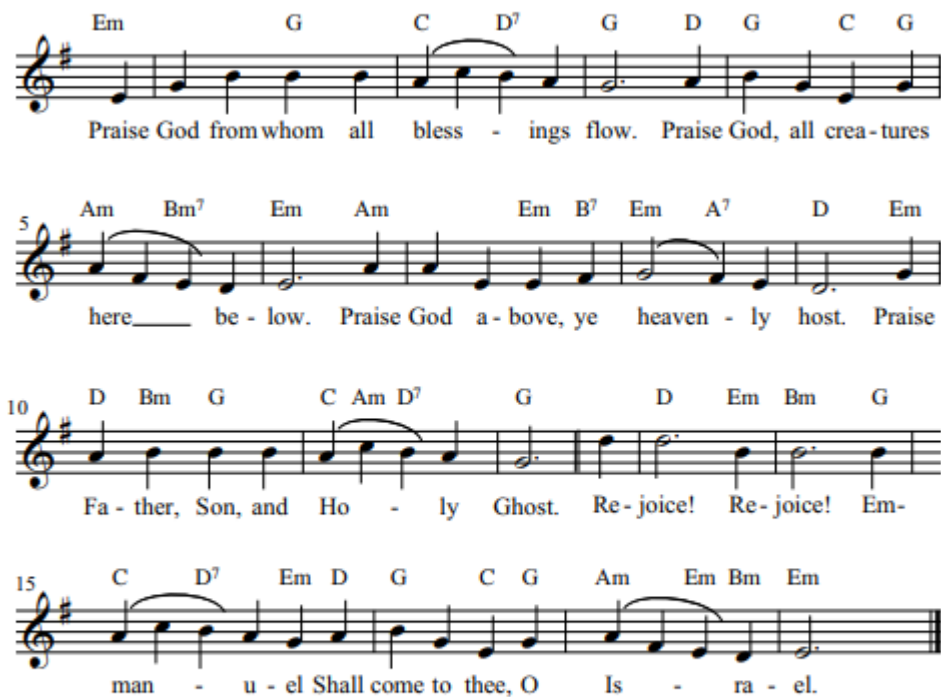
\*HYMN #92 all

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*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. Your NOVEMBER JINGLE CHANGE offerings help the Sunday School's mission to support a local organization, group or individual in need during the holiday season.)*

\*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](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, our hope and our help, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that hope will sprout in people who struggle with despair, and places trying to rebuild after devastating loss. Be their hope and their help, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: "Lord, in your Mercy...**Hear our 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.**

\*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

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Giving Tree**

This season, the Sunday School will also be collecting gifts for a local family in need. There will be 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 to church by December 18.

Here is the family’s Christmas wish list.

**Boy age 11:**

- Needs:
  - Jeans (Blue Only) 32’x30’
  - Shirts size Medium (blue, black, gray); Likes Star Wars, nothing “kiddy”
  - Underwear, size medium – briefs (white or colored)
- Would like:

**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)

- Models, especially Star Wars

### Boy age 9:

- Needs:
  - Wind/athletic pants that look like dress pants (Driworks, brand Athletic) size 10
  - Socks – Shoe size 3
  - Tennis Shoes – Size 3 (current) or Size 4
  - Winter gloves
  - Winter Hat (nothing kiddish), prefers red, blue, white (Likes the NE Patriots)
- Would like:
  - Baseball bat and ball
  - Likes to do diamond art craft kits, size 4 x4 or smaller
  - Likes anything patriotic (army, etc.)

### Mom:

- Needs:
  - Variety of plastic storage containers with covers for freezer and fridge
- Would like:
  - Diamond Art Craft kits
- **The Bethlehem Ladies are taking orders for Poinsettias.** They are \$9 each and the colors available are red, white and pink. The last Sunday to order Poinsettias is December 4th. The Poinsettias can be taken home on Christmas Day after worship service. 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!!!
- The blue and yellow candle on the altar is lit in unity with the people of the Ukraine.
- 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**

- Saturday, Dec. 3 - Cookie Walk @ St. Peter UCC, Kiel – 9am-11am
- Saturday, Dec. 3 – Christmas at Lakeland- 5pm Sing Along, 7pm concert (See flyer)
- 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 Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@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

#### **Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

#### **Other Concerns:**

People of the Ukraine and others affected by war and violence.

People affected by gun violence. (Colorado Springs – Chesapeake, VA)

Victims of earthquake in Indonesia.



## 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 1:1-5

As followers of Jesus, we still live in a world where darkness seems ever-present. This is no surprise to many of us. We experience suffering in relationships, through disease and death, and seeing the world run by and for those in power. Remembering the truth found in John 1:5 and the resurrection of Jesus allows us to have faith that, in the words of Frederick Buechner, “the madness and lostness we see all around us and within us are not the last truth about the world but only the next to the last truth.”

REFLECT:

Consider today how the light of Christ may shine into the darkness around you. Are there times in your life where you’ve accepted the darkness in which you may be called to carry the light of Christ? How might practicing the four tenets of Advent Conspiracy bring about light into our dark world?

PRAY:

Jesus, Light of the World, During this Advent season, may we not ignore or fear darkness, but help us see the same light that came into the world 2,000 years ago still shines in us today. When we grow weary, strengthen our hearts. When we feel despair, encourage us through community and your words, And where there is darkness, lead us to be light. Amen

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

**Today Sunday 11/27:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

**Monday 11/28:** ~Happy Birthday Rev. Roy Rogers!!

**Tuesday 11/29:** ~Happy Birthday Joe Schmidt and Mark Wirtz!!

**Wednesday 11/30:** ~Happy Birthday Leah Henning!

**Thursday 12/1 :** ~Happy Birthday Mavryk Suttner!!

**Friday 12/2:**

**Saturday 12/3:**

**Sunday 12/4:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; ~Happy Birthday Kelly Biwan and Kristen Schmitt!

**December Pantry Items: Box of Cereal**