

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent*



MISSION

To worship God, to learn and live the Word of God, to engage in Christian fellowship and service, to invite others to join us on our faith journey in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We are so glad that you are joining your voice with ours in worship today! Everyone, please sign our green friendship pads, found at the end of each pew. If you like, a comfortable space for families is available under the balcony.

God put the wiggle in children, and we welcome them in worship!

Children are also welcome to participate in Sunday school, if they prefer.

All are invited to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with a cross (†);

Congregational responses are in **bold text**.

Prayer Requests

Fill out a prayer request card found in the pews. You may give it to one of the pastors before service or to an usher during the Hymn of Response.



CHURCH LIFE

No Bethlehem members were known to be in the hospital as of Wednesday

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY, 12/15/2024

Total: 83 (In Person: 66, YouTube: 15, Phone: 2)

10:00 am Worship is available via Phone Streaming & Livestream

(access from the Church website: <https://www.bethlehem-ucc.org>)

To join with Phone Stream, call 855-669-8965 prior to worship at 10:00 am. You may sign up to be added to be called for Phone Stream by contacting the church office during regular business hours.

**December 22, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent
Lessons & Carols**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND SHARING CHURCH LIFE

CENTERING MUSIC

Moderato from *Variations on Noel*
Ye Mee Kim, organ

- Marcel Dupré

OPENING WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:14

Lighting the Candle of LOVE

One: Jesus said, "Love your neighbor."

All: We haven't met our neighbors. Teach us how to love those we haven't met.

One: Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

All: We hold our faults and failures tightly. Teach us to love Your goodness within us and within everyone we meet.

One: Jesus said, "Love your enemies."

All: Give us the courage and strength to love both friend and foe.

One: We relight the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy. And now we light the candle of Love, in honor of the love that our Lord has for us.

All: The Light of Love shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it!

Advent Prayer:

One: Lord of Love, we have lit the candle of Love and marvel at your desire to be one with us. Let the flame of this candle summon hearts that have grown cold, into the warmth of your people living in the Light of Love. Fill our lives with Love, making room for all who desire to know you, Emmanuel, our Lord and our God.

All: Blessed Lord, you are our Light and Love! Amen.

Sung Response:

"The Advent Candles" (to the tune of NCH #124, *Away in a Manger*)

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;
A candle of Love lights December's dark night.
Together sing blessings, spread Love everywhere.
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is near.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE

NCH # 129 v.2

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened heaven's door, and you are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer and Sung Petition

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

**Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r
send us grace.**

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Please us these words or those most familiar to you.

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation to give

Offertory

Variation 8 from *Variations on Noel*

- Marcel Dupré

Ye Mee Kim, organ

† Hymn of Thanksgiving

NCH # 159

As with Gladness (v.3)

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

† **Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

O God, what can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can, I give him – of myself and my possessions. Most of all, I give him my heart. Bless our gifts in gratitude for the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD
LESSONS & CAROLS**

1st Reading

Hymn: *I Wonder as I Wander v.1*

1 I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus, my Savior, did come for to die For poor, ornery people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander-, out under the sky.

2nd Reading

Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v.1 & 7*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's
peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

3rd Reading

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem v.1*

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

4th Reading

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem v.2*

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.

5th Reading

Hymn: ***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear v.1, 2 & 4)***

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, And
still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

4 For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

6th Reading

Hymn: ***Angels, from the Realms of Glory v.1 & 2***

1 Angels, from the Realms of Glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
As you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born King.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new born King.

7th Reading

Hymn: ***Away in a Manger v.1-2***

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his
sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord
Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying
he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus, protect me, I pray, and stay by my side until
night turns to day.

8th Reading

Hymn: *Jesus Our Brother, Kind and Good v.1-6*

1 Jesus our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus our brother, kind and good.

2 "I" said the donkey, shaggy and brown, "I carried his mother uphill and
down. I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.

I", said the donkey shaggy and brown.

3 "I", said the cow, all white and red, "I gave him my manger for his bed.
I gave him my hay to pillow his head. I," said the cow all white and red.

4 "I", said the sheep with curly horn, "I gave him my wool for his blanket
warm.

He wore my coat on Christmas morn. I", said the sheep with curly horn.

5 "I", said the dove from rafters high, I", cooed him to sleep, so he should not
cry.

We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I. I", said the dove from rafters high.

6 Thus every beast by some good spell, in the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel, the gifts they gave Emmanuel

9th Reading

Hymn: *We Three Kings v.1 & 5*

1 We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O- star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

O- star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

10th Reading:

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High v.1-4*

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo, Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.
Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo, Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo, Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

4 See the babe in manger laid whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while your hearts in love we raise.
Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo, Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Presto from *Variations on Noel*
Ye Mee Kim, organ

- Marcel Dupré

OUR TEAM:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dawn Christenson

Associate Pastor: Rev. Diane White

Ministers: All the people

Director of Music & Organist: Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans

Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan

Guest Organist: Ye Mee Kim

Sound Technicians: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technicians: Oliver Kripfgans, Michelle Loukotka, Jennifer Vasquez

Security Volunteer: John Irwin

Coffee Hour Host: Abby Johnson and Gretchen Korzuck

Reach out to us:

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