

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and its neighbors by joyfully living and sharing the Good News.*

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Aaron Holmgren, Pastor

Second Sunday of Advent (Setting 6)

Jan Smith, Organist

### GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle (*adapted from excerpt of ELCA Advent Study 2017*)

*\*Light the candle during the singing of "Canticle of Turning" ELW # 723 (st. 2)*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*\*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says our God. In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW # 264

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie and Canticle of Praise (p. 165)

Rejoicing in God's grace, we sing our Canticle of Praise (p. 169) **This is the feast...**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray; **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By Christ's advent, strengthen your people and comfort us in our distresses, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Choir Anthem "An Invitation to Advent" Arranged by Douglas Nolan

### WORD

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-11 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message "The Beginning"

Gospel Acclamation (p. 171) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?...**

The holy gospel according to Mark the first chapter. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading            Mark 1:1-8                    The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**  
Sermon                    “Expect the Unexpected”  
Hymn of the Day        “All Earth Is Hopeful” ELW # 266

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession            Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Peace                    The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Offering

We now enter into a time of offering where we joyously share in God’s abundance.

Doxology            “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW # 884

Offertory Prayer

**Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here with us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

### **MEAL**

We now share in Christ’s holy meal of forgiveness, love, and grace.

Table Prayer    **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving (p. 172-173)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you...**

**Holy, holy, holy...**

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer (insert)

Invitation to Communion

Distribution Hymns (p. 174) Lamb of God...

“My Lord, What a Morning” ELW # 438

### **SENDING**

Benediction

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn            “Hark, the Glad Sound!” ELW # 239

Dismissal            Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude