

## 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 17, 2017

Aaron Holmgren, Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent (Children's Christmas Program)

Jan Smith, Keyboardist

### GATHERING

Prelude

Gathering Songs                    “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW (red hymnal) # 249  
  (Two requests from the congregation)  
  “He Came Down” ELW # 253

Welcome

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

Hymn “Canticle of Turning” ELW # 723 (st. 3)

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.**

Entrance Song                    “Joy to the World!” Green Binder # 97

Litany of Thanksgiving

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing.

**We give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God.**

God has done great things for us.

**The one who calls us is faithful.**

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely

**And may our spirits and souls and bodies be kept sound and blameless at the advent of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray; **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light;**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **WORD**

Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 The Word of the Lord. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>
Gospel Song	“Open Our Eyes” GB # 5
Children’s Program	“The Birth of Jesus” by Felicia Mollohan
Song of the Day	“I Wonder if He Knew” GB # 95
Prayers of the People	Hear us, O God. <b>Your Mercy is Great.</b>
Peace	The peace of Christ be with you all. <b>And also with you.</b>
Offering	
Offertory Song	“It is Well with My Soul” GB # 40

### **MEAL**

Communion	
Table Prayer	<b>Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.</b>
Words of Institution	
Lord’s Prayer	
Communion Song	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW # 257 (st. 1-4)

### **SENDING**

Benediction Song	“The Lord Bless Thee” GB # 25
Sending Song	“Go Tell It on the Mountain” GB # 96
Sending Words	Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. <b>Thanks be to God!</b>
Postlude	