

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 24, 2017, 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Aaron Holmgren, Pastor
Jan Smith, Organist

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Sing to God something brand new! **For God has done wonderful things!**

God has not forgotten to love us all! **Even the ends of the earth have heard!**

Make a joyful noise! **Break forth in song!**

With strings and horns, **Sing praise to the Holy One!**

With the roaring sea and everything in it! **With all the land and everything in it!**

The floods clap their hands. **The hills sing with joy.**

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right: **Justice for everyone, everything fair.**

Sing to God something brand new! **For God has done wonderful things!**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High. One God, now and forever. Amen

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Gracious God, **In Christ Jesus you are with us, as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Your sins are forgiven in **✝** Jesus' name. **Amen**

Antiphon "Joyous Light of Glory" ELW # 229

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray; **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ELW # 283

Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ELW # 272

Reading Psalm 96

Hymn "From Heaven Above" ELW # 268 (st. 1-3)

Reading Titus 2:11-14

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ELW # 279

Reading Luke 2:1-14

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELW # 289

Reflection

Prayers of the People Lord in Your Mercy. **Hear Our Prayer.**

Offering Bethel Choir: "The Celtic Rose" (by Sheldon Curry)

Offering Prayer

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen

Distribution of the Light

Ushers will dim the lights and then light the candles of the person at the end of each row. Share the light down the pew. Remember to tip the unlit candle toward the lit candle. Children may "light" their battery candles!

Candlelight Hymn Bethel Choir: "Night of Silence" (by David Kantor)

Congregation: "Silent Night, Holy Night!" ELW # 281 (st. 2-3)

st. 2) Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

st. 3) Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Benediction

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always.

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen

Sending Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ELW # 270

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you to ALL, for helping make our sanctuary beautiful for Advent and Christmas!

Poinsettias:

- ◆ Judy and Eric Angvall, in celebration of our two grandchildren
- ◆ Diane and Dave Horsman, in celebration of our grandchildren
- ◆ Jill and Brian Duncan, in celebration of our five grandsons
- ◆ Cathy Houg, in celebration of my parents
- ◆ Mona Dobrava, in memory of Dick Dobrava, Sr.
- ◆ Jane and Roger Martin; in memory of Ron Martin
- ◆ Linda and Bob Haller, in celebration of our grandchildren
- ◆ Lisa and Steve Klobe, in celebration of our children
- ◆ Carol and Lloyd Wortz, in celebration of our children and grandchildren
- ◆ Women of the ELCA; in honor of Pastor Aaron and Abbe

Wreaths:

- ◆ Kathy and Dick Kiekhaefer, in celebration of thirty-three years of marriage
(Kathy & Dick have donated two large wreaths every year since their wedding day!)

A special thank you to:

- ◆ Iris Rognli, for quilting our beautiful Nativity banner, which is on display in the narthex!
- ◆ Abbe Holmgren, Nicole Jaeger, Kayla Weinzierl, Nicole Weisenburger for their special music!

