

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2009 – 11:00 AM

* *Indicates congregation standing if able. Parents with infants may remain seated.*
Congregational responses indicated in bold.

GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have prepared our homes and church for Christmas, Lord.
Now help us prepare our hearts.

HANDBELL CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

“Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Dianne Griffith, soloist

arr. Hayes

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praises to our God, who has done marvelous things!

Let God’s saving deeds be known throughout all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O people of God!

For great is the Holy One in our midst.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Grant us patience as we wait for you, Jesus, Savior of the World. In this time of waiting we have gathered. It is not enough for you to be present in our worship – we pray that you will be the author of what we say, sing, and share. Let your peace settle in the center of our souls. Fill our hearts with joy. These things we pray in your name. Amen.

LIGHTING THE 3RD CANDLE OF ADVENT

Candle Lighting

Scripture Reading

Prayer

*HYMN OF CALL # 13

“Prepare the Way”

F. M. Franzen

CALL TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

**We are told that this is supposed to be a joyful time,
so why do we often feel joyless?**

**We hear the summons to rejoice,
but why do we struggle so to respond?**

Absorbed in the needs of the day, we have lost sight of you.

**Beaten down by cares and burdens,
we neglect the means of grace
through which our hearts might be lifted.**

We pray partly and worship half-heartedly and serve grudgingly.

Sin prevails and joy eludes and we drift farther away.

Gather us in. Forgive us. Restore us.

**Bring forth a new spirit within us,
that we might discover the joy for which you created us,
the deep joy made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

... (silent & personal confession) Amen

SUNG RESPONSE # 572 *“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”*

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI # 579 *“Glory Be to the Father”*

H. W. Greatorex

MINUTE FOR MISSION Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Deb Hyder

HANDBELL ANTHEM *“Advent Carol”*

arr. Hal H. Hopson

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

SERMON *“Always Rejoice”*

The Rev. Craig Hendrix

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH From “The Brief Statement of Faith” Insert

*HYMN OF RESPONSE # 8 ***“Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*** TRURO

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *“The Coventry Carol/The First Noel”* arr. Hayes

*DOXOLOGY # 592 ***“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*** OLD HUNDREDTH

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE SENDING FORTH

*SENDING HYMN # 15 ***“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”*** LLANGLOFFAN

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION # 538 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*
(Verse 1)

***Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Traveling through this wilderness.***

*POSTLUDE *“Carol of the Bells”* arr. Lanz

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Liturgist: Liz Singley

Pianist: Mary Hook

Sound: Greg Murr

Advent Candles: Karen & Jim Schall

Ushers: Teresa Hettrick and Chelsea Richmond

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

~ a community of faith coming together,
for fellowship, study and service . . .
seeking God's peace, justice and love ~

Third Sunday of Advent



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!
We invite you to participate in signing the Friendship Folders adding your name
and address and if you desire a church newsletter or a pastoral call.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "sins...sin against us"
rather than "debts..." or "trespasses..."

Prayer requests can be noted on the cards provided in the pew racks,
please put those in the offering plate.

BETHEL STAFF

Rev. Craig Hendrix - Interim Pastor
Deb Hyder – Parish Nurse
Mary Hook – Pianist and Organist
Chris Badger – Bell Choir Director
Linda Gerth – Child-care

Rev. Richard Hettrick, D. Min.– Pastor Emeritus
Will Purushotham – Youth Director
Laura Walker – Choir Director
Susan Cutts – Administrative Assistant
John Carter – Custodian

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