

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 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

In your mercy, Lord, grant us tranquility and Christmas joy
as we approach your throne of grace.

PRELUDE

“O Holy Night”

Charlie Coen

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

From ancient days, God has promised this:

the woman in labor will give birth and her little one will come to reign.

He will stand in the majesty of the Lord and feed his flock with strength.

His name will be known in all the earth: he will be the giver of peace.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of small towns, God of great cities, God of rural spaces, God of remote outposts and centralized populations, your story is stretched through all of creation. We celebrate Bethlehem as the birthplace of a savior, but this story of our faith includes the old Northern kingdom, and the great capital in the south, Jerusalem, and even Rome, the center of ancient empire, will be shaken by your entrance into history. Our nativity sets may be plastic or an antique heirloom, our carols may be off-key or sung by a professional choir, our church may be perched on a hill in a forest or nestled in the midst of a city – your gift is the same. Be present in our worship. May we recognize you in our midst today. Amen.

LIGHTING THE 4TH CANDLE OF ADVENT

The King Family

Candle Lighting

Scripture Reading

Prayer

*HYMN OF CALL #22

“Angel’s, from the Realms of Glory”

H. T. Smart, 1867

CALL TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of gracious memory, God who vindicates, we remember your determination to lift up the poor and slow down the rich. We have been too quick to claim your promises, mistaking a little sacrifice for true poverty, while pushing the poverty of the developing world from our minds. While we are quick to thank you for our blessings, we are reluctant to share with others, defining our fellowship in closed terms while failing to recognize our fellowship with believers around the world. Let us, with your help, join together to proclaim good news to the world, a year of jubilee in which debts are cancelled and hope is restored. May our gifts to you swiftly find their way around the world so that all might be blessed. These things we pray with the hope that we too may be recognized as your servants.

... (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

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Celebrate”

THE WORD

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:39-55

SERMON

“My Spirit Rejoices”

The Rev. Craig Hendrix

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)**

Hymnal – pg 14

*HYMN OF RESPONSE # 600

“Song of Mary”

MORNING SONG

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Wolaver

*DOXOLOGY # 592 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE SENDING FORTH

*SENDING HYMN # 23 *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

GLORIA

*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

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

arr. Lanz

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Sound: Greg Murr

Pianist: Mary Hook

Liturgist: Teresa Hettrick

Advent Candles: The King Family

Ushers: Mary B. Hines & Jim Hines

Acolytes: Jarrod McGill and Thomas McGill

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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Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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

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.