



**A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:**

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us this Christmas Eve.

May you experience the warmth and love of Christ on this special evening.

**BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2021 – 7:00 PM**

*\* Indicates congregation standing if able.  
Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Prelude

“O HOLY NIGHT”

Charlotte Knies, Harp

Call to Worship (*L= Leader, P=People*)

L: Let us worship God.

Glory to God in the highest,

**P: and peace to God’s people on earth.**

L: The grace of God has come to us;

**P: Jesus Christ brings salvation to all.**

L: Light shines on those who live in darkness,

**All: for a child is born to us this night.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We have watched; we have waited

... in Hope (#1)

... for Peace (#2)

... in Joy! (#3)

... with Love (#4)

Now our redemption draws near! (#5)

Wreath Lighting Song (*Sung to tune Hymn No. 146 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*)

***Shine, Christ Can-dle, on this eve. Hear the an-gel cho-rus!***

***All, re-joice now, cease to grieve; God has act-ed for us!***

***Born God’s on-ly Son this night In a hum-ble man-ger,  
Born to bring us end-less light, Free from guilt and dan-ger!***

Prayer

Great God, as you came at night when all was still,  
so enter our lives this night.

Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence,  
that we may clearly see the way, the truth, and the life  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

\* Hymn No. 145

**“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”**

GREENSLEEVES

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet  
while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!*

*Why lies he in such mean es-tate  
where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here  
the si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!*

*So bring him in-cense, gold and myrrh;  
come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings sal-va-tion brings;  
let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.  
Raise, raise the song on high.  
The vir-gin sings her lul-la-by.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!*

\* Call to Confession

Even in the midst of great joy and celebration,  
we know that our lives don't always reflect God's intentions.  
Please join me in the prayer of confession inspired from the Book of Titus.

\* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.  
It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions,  
and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives  
in this present age.**

**We confess that we fail to live the way we should.**

**We fail to yearn for the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**Help us try harder where it matters**

**and help us be eager to do what is good.**

**Forgive us where we fail You. Amen.**

\* Sung Response Refrain from "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

*Glo---ri-a ... In ex-cel-sis De-o!*

*Glo---ri-a ... In ex-cel-sis De-o!*

\* Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news!

Christ was born for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading with Musical Accompaniment

Grayson Pierce

Prophet Isaiah 9:2 & 6 (... *Righteous Reign of the Coming King*) Pg. 600

Flute

Opus 24 #3 Etude

Lyric Rivera

Reading "The Weakest Star" Avery Parish  
*Adapted from a story by the late Reverend Hugh Simon*

Children's Story "The Story of Baby Jesus" Adam Badger  
*The children are invited to gather up front to hear a story.*

Special Music "MARY'S BOY CHILD" by Jester Hairston  
*(LONG TIME AGO IN BETHLEHEM)*  
Brittyn Brown, Kaylee Brown, David Yeaworth, Jonathan Yeaworth

\* Affirmation of Faith Nicene Creed

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God prays with us, for God in Christ is God in flesh,  
whose human heart knows our utter helplessness.  
Christ is quick to listen and lift up our prayers,  
so we pray to the Prince of Peace.

For peace in the church, that the hands of Christ  
would work for reconciliation in our society  
through our hands of service ...

For peace in the world,  
that hunger for peace might be stronger than the impulse for war ...

For peace in our community,  
that those who hunger and thirst  
or shudder in the cold without home or family  
would be invited into our homes as people of great honor ...

God-with-us in Christ, as you listen and lift up our prayers,  
help us to live in a way that serves your holy purpose,  
so all may know your peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

We bring gifts to our newborn King –  
for how could we come to the manger of the Lord  
without our hearts bursting with the joy of giving?  
How could we look upon the face of God  
and not be moved to give all of our lives?  
Willingly and joyfully we lay these gifts at the holy feet of the Lord  
as gestures of our love.

Offertory Music

Levi Parish

*(We collect our gifts for the baby.*

*Please pass your gifts to the center aisle as the wagon approaches your pew.)*

\* Hymn No. 606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

*Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;  
praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;  
praise him a-bove, ye heav-en-ly host;  
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

\* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

In this season when so many gifts are given and received,  
we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now.

Use them according to your purposes and plans,  
bring your good news of great joy to all people;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

\* Benediction

Go into the night, glorifying and praising God  
for all you have seen and heard.

May Christ be your light, this night and forevermore.

Hymn No. 122 “SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT” STILLE NACHT

*Please be seated. As the music plays, a candle lighter will come to the  
end of your pew. The candle of the first worshiper in each row will be lit,  
then they will light the candle of the person next to them, in that way the  
light of Christ is passed from person to person.*

**(To avoid spilling hot wax, please keep your candle upright  
allowing the person next to you to light their candle.)**

*After all the candles are lit, we will stand to sing “Silent Night”*

*\* Si-lent night, ho-ly night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon vir-gin moth-er and child!  
Ho-ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.*

*Si-lent night, ho-ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,  
Glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far,  
Heaven-ly hosts sing: "Al-le-lu-ia;  
Christ the Sav-ior is born, Christ the Sav-ior is born."*

*Si-lent night, ho-ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Ra-diant beams from Thy ho-ly face,  
With the dawn of re-deem-ing grace,  
Je-sus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Si-lent night, ho-ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light;  
With the an-gels let us sing,  
Al-le-lu-ia to our King;  
Christ the Sav-ior is born, Christ the Sav-ior is born.*

*At the conclusion of Silent Night, please extinguish your candle  
as we depart the sanctuary in silence.*

*Please deposit the candle & holder in the receptacle in the Gathering Area*



**May the peace and joy of this Christmas night  
go with you!**