

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
and placed in the offering plate.

**The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
1st Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022 - 11:00 AM**

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

GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew, passing it down the pew then back.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Worship Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What gives you hope?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

... ..

Teenager: Today we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is at work in this world.

(We light the candle of Hope)

Teenager: From generation to generation, God has brought good news of love and compassion, justice and community.
Let us rest and abide in that good news. Amen.

Call to Worship

L: I was glad when they said to me,

P: Let us go to the house of the Lord!

L: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

P: That we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths.

L: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

P: Come let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

God of justice and peace,

from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,

that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder

before your marvelous deeds.

Raise our heads in expectation,

that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord

and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

* Hymn No. 88

“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”

VENI EMMANUEL

(verses 1- 4)

*O come, O come, Em-man-ue-l,
and ran-son cap-tive Is-ra-el,
that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here
un-til the Son of God ap-pear.*

*Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.*

*O come, thou Wis-dom from on high,
who or-derest all things might-i-ly:
to us the path of knowl-edge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.*

*Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.*

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Si-nai's height
in an-cient times didst give the law
in cloud and maj-es-ty and awe.*

*Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.*

*O come, thou Root of Jes-se,
free thine own from Sa-tan's tyr-an-ny;
from depths of hell thy peo-ple save
and give them vic-tory o'er the grave.*

*Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.*

* Call to Confession

In God's house, everyone is welcome —
those who seem like they have it all together,
and those who feel like their world is falling apart.
No matter who we are, there's room for us here.
With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer,
speaking the truth of our lives.
Let us pray:

* Prayer of Confession

**God of today and God of tomorrow, you say,
“Bring your full self. There's room for you here.”
But we say, “Our lives are too messy.”
You say, “Bring your hopes and your dreams.
There's room for you here.”
But we say, “It's too risky to hope.”
You say, “Bring your grief and your prayers.
There's room for you here.”
But we say, “Some things are easier to forget.”
God of today and God of tomorrow,**

**we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.
Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.
Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.
Help us remember, today and tomorrow,
there's room for every story. Amen.**

* Sung Response No. 551 **“LORD, HAVE MERCY”**

LAND OF REST

*Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;
Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.
Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;
Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.*

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Family of faith, We who feel scattered are held together.
We who have lost our way are forgiven and found.
And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told,
“There's room for you here.”
From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Sung Response No. 89 (*Refrain*)

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

God of the ages, in scripture we hear stories of people like us —
ordinary people, people who longed to know you,
people who longed to follow you, people who made mistakes,
people who tried to grow —

old, young, native, immigrant, new to the faith, lifelong believer.
In scripture we hear stories of people like us,
so just as you walked with them,
help us to hear and remember all the ways that you walk with us.
We are listening. We are grateful. We are yours. Amen

Readings from Scripture

Prophet	Isaiah 2:1-5	<i>(The Future House of God)</i>	Pg. 594
Wisdom	Psalm 122	<i>(Song of Praise and Prayer for Jerusalem)</i>	Pg. 540
Gospel	Matthew 1:1-17	<i>(The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah)</i>	Pg. 1

Sermon “*There’s Room for Every Story*”
 The Reverend Nancy Coleman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who promised to Abraham,
who wrestled with Jacob, who walked with Ruth,
who spoke with Moses, who grieved with Bathsheba,
who danced with David, who dreamed with Joseph,
and who hoped like Mary.**

**We believe in a God who has been loving, inviting, transforming,
and challenging us from generation to generation.**

**And we believe that same God is here with us now, saying,
“Come on in; there’s room for you here.” Amen.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God of Abraham and Isaac, God of Tamar and Ruth,
God of Mary and Joseph,

We bow our heads today hoping to catch a glimpse or a shimmer of you.

We know that you are here with us,

just as you walked with every generation before,

so we bring you our prayers.

Thank you for creating space for us.

Thank you for seeing our scattered thoughts, our imposter syndrome, our fragments of doubt, and still saying, “Come on in.”

Thank you for seeing our ordinary selves with anxious concerns and unflattering habits and saying, “I have bigger plans for you.”

Thank you for seeing our fragile egos, and our uncertain relationships, and saying, “You still belong here.”

Your expansive love makes room for us to breathe, and we want to love with our lungs and hearts full.

So today we pray — teach us how to make that same room for others.

When we come face to face with stories that are different from ours, show us how to add chairs to the table.

When we find ourselves face to face with stories that frustrate and test our patience, show us how to build bridges instead of walls.

When we find ourselves face to face with stories that feel foreign or unrelatable, remind us to open the door and to listen fully.

From Abraham to Mary, you made room for every story — and that love continues to make room for us.

Teach us to do the same for our neighbor so this world will know love.

With hope we pray, using the words your son taught us to say:

The Lord’s Prayer (*sin / sin against us*)

Hymnal pg. 35

**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

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that all who love him may have life eternally.

With loving hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

Offertory

* Hymn No. 606 **“PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”**

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, your love overflows in the gift of your Spirit.

Bless these gifts that we offer

that they may spread your blessing in a world of hurt and need;
in Christ's name. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 105

“PEOPLE, LOOK EAST”

*Peo-ple, look east. The time is near
of the crown-ing of the year.
Make your house fair as you are a-ble;
trim the hearth and set the ta-ble.
People, look east and sing to-day:
Love, the guest, is on the way.*

*Fur-rows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is plant-ed there.
Give up your strength the seed to nour-ish,
that in course the flower may flour-ish
Peo-ple, look east and sing to-day:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
E-ven the hour when wings are fro-zen
God for fledg-ing time has cho-sen.
Peo-ple, look east and sing to-day:
Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shin-ing be-yond the frost-y weath-er,
bright as sun and moon to-geth-er
Peo-ple, look east and sing to-day:
Love, the Star, is on the way.*

*An-gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set ev-ery peak and val-ley hum-ming
with the word, the Lord is com-ing
Peo-ple, look east and sing to-day:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

* Charge and Blessing

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that
from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name,
loves you, and calls you forth,
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."
May it be so. Amen.

* Sung Response No. 91 “COME, COME EMMANUEL”

Come, come Em-man-u-el.

Come, Em-man-u-el.

Come, come Em-man-u-el.

Come, Em-man-u-el.

* Postlude

Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctified.org

Minister: The Reverend Nancy Coleman

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Music Director: Judy Yeaworth

Sound: Adam Badger

Liturgist: Paul Jackson

Video: Jake Horton

Acolyte: Frank Harris

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Text: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite

Music: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988

Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, 1982

Text & Music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

“People, Look East”

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, alt.

Music: French folk melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

Text © 1960 Divid Higham Associates, Ltd.

Music Harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

Text and Music: James J. Chepponis, 1995

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“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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