

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

November 29, 2020

An Advent Lessons and Carols

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Improvised Praeludium in Stylus Phantasticus

Jacob Montgomery

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: We begin this Advent season knowing that God has created a world of many wonders. But despite God's gifts in our lives, many throughout our world suffer from unnecessary pain: hunger and starvation, prejudice and hatred, greed and injustice, violence and war. The wonders of our Creator need to be restored, and we long for the birthing of a new time, when all life's meaning and purpose will be brought to light. We long to see the shaping of God's dreams being realized in our brothers and sisters.

O God, the Master Weaver of our lives, we light this Advent candle as a simple sign of our faith in you. We pray that your light will dispel the darkness in our world, and that your light will be woven into the fabric of our lives.

All: Almighty God and Creator, we are all the work of your hand. Give us the strength and faith to look to you even in our brokenness and pain. May we wait for your coming with eagerness and hope, trusting that you will renew us and all your creation; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.

Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture,
how the prophets of Israel foretold
that God would visit and redeem the waiting people.

Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.

Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
will bring all peoples and all things
into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,
the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves,
for those who have not heard the good news of God,
or who do not believe it;
for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,
and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God,
in the words that Christ himself taught us.
People: Amen.

CAROL #88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v. 1-3)

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1 –8

Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Leader: To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back, and bringing the exiles home!

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“Comfort, Comfort ye my People”

PSALM 42

“Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”

Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 23:5–6

Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Leader: The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL #88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v. 4-7)

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. Refrain

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain

THIRD LESSON

Zechariah 9:9 –10

Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Leader: To a nation grown weary of war and weapons, God promises a king who will establish a reign of peace.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL #102

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 1-2)
HEILAND

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN

Savior of the nations, come,
virgin's Son, make here thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not of flesh and blood the Son,
offspring of the Holy One;
born of Mary ever blest,
God in flesh is manifest.

ORGAN REFLECTION

“Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland”

J.S. Bach

FOURTH LESSON

Haggai 2:6 –9

Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Leader: The prophet Haggai promises to God's people a temple even more glorious than the temple of old.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL #93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates“
Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

TRURO

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 35:1 –6

Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Leader: The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal both of the land and of God's people on the coming day of redemption.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

ORGAN REFLECTION

“Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming”

Johannes Brahms

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1:26 –35, 38

Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary, that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL #108

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega;
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

By his Word was all created;
he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining,

all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

INVITATION TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Leader: Let us remember to support Christ's church.

OFFERTORY

“Poeme Mystique”

Richard Purvis

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison) Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Through our offerings we commit ourselves to God's ministry of hope and mercy, both here and around the world. We offer our gifts and tithes in celebration of those who gave us a reason for that hope. Amen

SEVENTH LESSON

Mark 1:1–15

Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL #106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion ‘

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

BLESSING

Pastor: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Noel X”

Louis-Claude Daquin

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	11/29	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom, Facebook Live, Boxcast)
Sunday	11/29	11 am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)
Sunday	11/29	12 pm	Session (Zoom)
Monday	11/30	3 pm	Serendipity (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/2	10 am	Staff meeting – (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/2	4 pm	Organ Task Force meeting - (Large Hall)
Thursday	12/3	7 pm	Choir meeting (Zoom)
Sunday	12/6	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom,, Facebook Live, Boxcast)
Sunday	12/6	11 am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)

LIVESTREAMING UPDATE: We are continuing to work on improving the quality and features of our Sunday Worship live-streaming experience. This Sunday we are upgrading our camera and will also begin using a new streaming interface called "BoxCast". One of the features that BoxCast provides is the ability to transmit high-quality audio and video to the BoxCast streaming channel. If you have a Smart TV or connect to internet channels on your television with Roku, Amazon Fire Stick, Apple TV, or Chromecast you can add the BoxCast channel and view our Sunday Services live on your TV. Past services will also be available on the BoxCast channel, so you can get caught up or re-watch any time.



1. Add the BoxCast Channel to your internet-connected TV
 2. Click on [Find an Organization]
 3. Type: **bethany presbyterian**
(Two organizations are named "bethany presbyterian", ours is the one with the picture of the sanctuary)
 4. Click on our "bethany presbyterian" to select this channel
 5. View a recent broadcast or live worship service here
 6. Return to the BoxCast main page when finished
 7. Bethany Presbyterian Church will be saved to the main page - just click for future viewing
- Sunday services will continue to be available on Zoom and Facebook and you can continue to use Facebook chat for sharing your prayer requests during the service.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE have decided that due to Covid-19 there will be no Poinsettia's/Benevolence this Christmas season.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Do you have several hours one day a month to connect people needing medical transportation with drivers? Greece FISH (Friends In Service Here) needs phone dispatchers to do just that. For more information on this vital volunteer position regarding training and duties, please contact Kay Illenberg at 585-225-2359. We are called to be a blessing and in so doing, we are blessed. Thank you.

LIFE GROUP #2: Meets in person at Bethany in the large hall at 7:00 to 8:30pm, the second and fourth Mondays of each month. *Due to Covid-19 regulations and session guidelines this group is currently at their maximum of 10 people. [There will be no class on December 28 due to holiday week.]*

SERENDIPITY LIFE GROUP #3: is one of the Life Studies groups at Bethany. The meetings are relaxed and based around passages from the Serendipity Bible. The discussions are not "heavy" and are relatable to our everyday lives and experiences. It is an enjoyable experience to get to know the other members of our church family. Any questions, please call Jack Bansbach at 227-1265. We are currently meeting via Zoom every other week, Monday's at 3PM, next meeting November 30.

LIFE GROUP #4: Are you looking for a light, casual Bible study that meets in the afternoon? Join Bev Bennett on Friday, December 18, 2020 at 3:00 in the Large Hall. Bev is open to any ideas the group may have and has suggested continuing the fun and fellowship with a pot-luck dinner or going out for a fish fry together afterwards. Due to Covid-19 guidelines and session regulations, there is a maximum of 10 for in-person meetings. Please call Bev Bennett (585)-225-0206 in advance to sign-up.

BOOK STUDY: Due to the recent increased positive Covid cases in Monroe County the January book study is currently on pause.

Join Zoom by phone only by calling +1 (646) 558-8656 on your land line or (646) 558-8656 on your cellular phone (there may be a long distance charge) and enter the following Meeting ID# 243 911 4010 when prompted, followed by the # sign.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2439114010>



Bethany Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

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