

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 20, 2020

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Magnificat on the 9th Tone”

Samuel Scheidt

WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Camp Whitman – Karen Bolinger

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we look to the steadfast God who has made an everlasting covenant with us. We look for the One who has come to give love a name and who is love, the One who has come to show us the way and who is the way. We look for the One whose life will never cease, whom death cannot contain; we look for the One who weaves joy out of sadness. We light this candle as a sign of our trust in God’s covenant in human form, forging a bond between us so strong that not even death can break it.

All: Eternal and all-powerful God, we thank you for the covenant of love that binds us together. Even when we lose hope and turn away from you, you reach out to us; you make whole our brokenness. Even from the fragments of our lives, you weave a tapestry of great beauty. Nothing is impossible with you. You have prepared a place for us, let us not rest until we find our way home and rest in you. Amen

HYMN #143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o’er all the earth;
you, who sang creation’s story,
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

CALL TO CONFESSION Lay liturgist – Karen Bolinger

Leader: The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you. And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and only treat others the way you wish to be treated. Do not initiate divisions, but rather let us bring peace to our hearts and to the world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Lay liturgist – Karen Bolinger

Forgive us, O Lord, if too easily we have accepted the secular interpretation of Christmas. If we have made ourselves so busy that we have forgotten how to care. If we have pictured Jesus only as an infant without acknowledging Him as the Lord of life. Grant us pardon, Lord, and restore us to right thinking and living. Amen.

Leader: Let us in silence confess our own personal sins. (Silence)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Lay liturgist – Karen Bolinger

Leader: My friends in Christ, hear and believe the good news of the gospel,
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison) Lay liturgist – Karen Bolinger

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 Lay liturgist – Karen Bolinger

SOLO

“Ave Maria” adapted from J.S. Bach Prelude in C
Jeff Tabor, tenor

Charles Gounod

SERMON

Dr. Bob Spratt

HYMN #118

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

(Verses 1-4)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind:
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind,
to you and humankind.

“To you, in David’s town this day,
is born of David’s line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign,
and this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid,
and in a manger laid.”

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS
THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

INVITATION TO SUPPORT CHRIST’S CHURCH

Leader: Let us offer to God our gifts and our tithes.

OFFERTORY

“Ecce Virgo concipiet”

Gerald Near

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison) Lay liturgist – Karen Bolinger

Remembering God’s incarnation on our behalf, we present these tithes and offerings as expressions of our thanks to God and of our concern for others. Amen.

HYMN #134**“Joy to the World”**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

BLESSING**POSTLUDE****“Creator of the Stars of Night”**

Jean Titelouze

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	12/20	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom, Facebook Live, Boxcast)
Sunday	12/20	11 am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)
Monday	12/21	7 pm	Stephen Ministry (Large Hall)
Wednesday	12/23	4 pm	Organ Task Force meeting - (Large Hall)
Thursday	12/24		Christmas eve service (Facebook, Boxcast, Bethany website)
Friday	12/25		Merry Christmas!
Sunday	12/27	10 am	Virtual Worship Service (Facebook, Boxcast, Bethany website)
Sunday	12/27	11 am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)

We welcome this morning our substitute organist Keith Reas, while Jacob Montgomery is on vacation.

Offering envelopes can be picked up on Sunday the 20th from 11:30 to 1:30. During this time people can come into the Narthex to get them (with masks on) or they can wait in their car and have them personally hand delivered. People can also help out by picking up envelopes for their Bethany neighbors. Thanks to all for your help.

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

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 January 11.

LIFE GROUP #4: Are you looking for a light, casual Bible study that meets in the afternoon? Join Bev Bennett on Friday, January 22 at 3:00 in the Large Hall. 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.

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.

Link to Boxcast

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/pjwwbqvlptnkr80ecx9s>

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.

Bethany Presbyterian Church
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616
www.bethanyrochester.org
663-3000