

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 16, 2018

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Emmanuel Comes”
Celebration Ringers

Kevin Stewart

WELCOME

GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION

CHORAL INTROIT

“An Advent Acclamation”
Bethany Choir and Celebration Ringers

Stacy Nordmeyer

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I will say, rejoice. Jesus is near. Despite the busyness, the pressure, and the assault of our senses that so often passes for Christmas, we have the promise of Scripture that Jesus is near.

People: When the shopping drains us physically, and the spending drains us financially; when we forget which party we're supposed to attend on which day; then we will remember to rejoice and again rejoice. We will light a candle to help us remember that Jesus is near. The peace of God will keep us in Christ Jesus.

[Lighting of the first three candles of the Advent wreath.]

*HYMN #106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

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)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Hear and believe the good news of the gospel,

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you. **People: And also with you!**

Children may leave for “Roots and Wings” activities in the Large Hall, and return to their pews after the Choral Lesson.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

O God, by your Spirit, tell us what we need to hear and show us what we ought to do, to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

FIRST READING

Revelations 22:1-7

page 1008 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

CHORAL ANTHEM

“E’en So, Lord Quickly Come”
Bethany Choir

Paul Manz

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18-25

pages 784 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

***HYMN #144**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

THIRD READING

Luke 1:46-55

page 832 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL LESSON

“Magnificat in C”
Bethany Choir

C.V. Stanford

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

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

***HYMN #84**

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

CONITOR ALME SIDERUM

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Congregational Response: “**Lord, we praise you.**” or “**Lord, hear our prayer**”

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS

(As the offering is received, please sign, pass, and return the pew pads. Please provide your full name, address, phone number, and check if you are a visitor or a member.)

CHORAL OFFERING

“Lo How A Rose E’er Blooming”
Bethany Choir

Michael Praetorius

***HYMN #606**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

O Lord, it is during this season, perhaps more than any other, that we reflect such fruits of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, and generosity; and it is our prayer and pledge, that these evidences of our faith will continue into the year ahead. Amen.

***HYMN #150**

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

DIX

CHORAL BLESSING

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”
Bethany Choir

Peter Lutkin

***POSTLUDE**

“In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729”

J.S. Bach

Ministry Through Music

December 16, 2018 | Bethany Presbyterian Church | 10:00AM Worship

Throughout history, Christians have gathered together to worship God. Often considered a noun synonymous for a church service, the word “worship” is also used as a verb, an action. Today, we worship God through music, lifting our hearts and voices in service to Him. We invite you to sing boldly, praising the Lord, and taking part in this celebration of preparation.

An Advent Acclamation – Stacy Nordmeyer

The opening choral selection begins with the jubilant clashing of bells, the ringing out of the piano, and the joyous choir singing “look to the light, prepare the way.” This piece based on the well-known hymn “People Look East,” reminds us of the true meaning of Advent, as a time of preparation. Christ is coming soon!

E’en So, Lord Quickly Come – Paul and Ruth Manz

Written by both Paul Manz and his wife in 1953 following their 3-year-old son’s critical illness and recovery, they employ the scripture from Revelations 22. Despite the immediate reference to the coming of the Lord, it is important to understand this piece speaks not only of His first coming, but additionally the second coming. The duality of this text strikes deeply into the heart of Advent, again, a time of preparation. Surrounded by department stores, media, and festivities, it is easy to focus solely on the “Hallmark Christmas.” This music reminds us to center ourselves on the true meaning of Advent – preparation.

Magnificat in C – Charles Villiers Stanford

The history of singing the virgin Mary’s Magnificat has been present in the church since the 15th century throughout Europe. Despite the many revisions during the split of the Protestant and Roman Catholic church, the Protestants preserved this aspect of worship. Martin Luther writes that “the tender mother of Christ... teaches us with her words.” Stanford’s setting reflects Mary’s joy after she meets with Elizabeth and their babies both kick in their wombs. Mary fell to her knees, singing the Lord’s praises. Composed in the late 1800s, this triumphant piece duels back and forth between the choir and organ, painting Mary’s elation, thanking the Lord for his strength. Closing with the doxology, the music reaches an ultimate climax with the entrance of the organ 16-foot pedal trombone ascending upwards, lifting praises to heaven with a final “Amen!”

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming – Michael Praetorius

This beautiful 16th century hymn text expresses the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, foretelling the birth of Jesus. Emphasizing the royal genealogy of Jesus, the first verse describes a rose sprouting from the Tree of Jesse, a symbol that depicts of the descendance of Jesus from Jesse of Bethlehem, King David’s father. This imagery was popular in medieval times and is featured in many religious artifacts of this period, drawing on the text from Isaiah 11: 1, “and there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” The second verse then explains the meaning of the symbolism: that Mary is the rose that has sprung up to bring forth a child, who is represented as a small flower. This ancient setting is still sung regularly, unifying the church throughout centuries!

The Lord Bless You and Keep You – Peter Lutkin

Returning to the twentieth century, the service today closes with a final blessing, drawn from the text of Numbers 6:24-26. Serving as the benediction, we send you onwards, wishing you God’s peace in your heart. Go forth and prepare the way of the Lord!

CHILDCARE is available from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM in the Church Nursery located across from the Church Library for newborns through Pre-K.

THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:

Deacons: Mark Klotzbach, Dave Anderson, Sandy Ericson, Sue Kretovic,
Journey Spratt, Beth Thomsen
Lay Liturgist: Karen Bolinger
Greeter: Wayne Crawford

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Pam Auld, David Ballerstein, Pete Posson,
Frank Wood.

If you picked a Christmas card addressed to Rev. and Mrs. Dwight Ferguson the address was outdated and this is the correct address: 5250 Manz Place, Apt. 214, Sarasota, FL 34232.

ADVENT LUNCHEON: Please join us after service today for a continuation of our Advent celebration by sharing a potluck lunch in the Large Hall. After lunch we will decorate cookies for the homebound.

EVERYDAY SPIRIT: There will not be class on December 30. Class will resume on Sunday January 6. Please join us.

DONATION OF THE MONTH: Handmade or purchased hats, mittens, gloves to support the patrons at Lyell Avenue Library. Pat Connor shared how neighborhood libraries support much more than books. They support the needs of the people in and around the library in many different ways. While you are out shopping for Christmas, pick up a hat and mittens or if you are feeling crafty knit some.

SHIPMATES: On January 12, 2019 at 11:30 am in the Large Hall at Bethany you will have an opportunity to meet the local author of "The Barns of Greece, NY," a recently published book now available at the Greece Historical Society museum by Jane Grant. This wonderful 64 page full-color book, signed by Janet, will be available for purchase at our meeting. A light luncheon will be served for only \$5 per person. Please contact Karen Henry at 663-8075 to make your reservation. Please let us know if you need a ride or you can share a ride. Send check to Bob Watt at 292 Malden street, Rochester, NY 14615. (check payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church). Reservation deadline is Friday, January 4, 2019.

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	12/16 9 am	Everyday Spirit (Library)
Sunday	12/16 9 am	Serendipity (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/16 9:15 am	Bethany Choir (Music Room)
Sunday	12/16 10 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Sunday	12/16 11 am	Advent Celebration (Large Hall)
Sunday	12/16 11:15 am	The Present Word (Small Hall)
Monday	12/17 10 am	Library Volunteers (Library)
Monday	12/17 7 pm	C&GM (Library)
Tuesday	12/18 10 am	Belles & Beaux (Sanctuary)
Tuesday	12/18 11am	Memorial Committee (Library)
Tuesday	12/18 6:30 pm	Life Group #1 (Offsite)
Wednesday	12/19 10 am	Staff meeting (Library)
Wednesday	12/19 7 pm	Budget & Finance (Library)
Wednesday	12/19 7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers (Sanctuary)
Thursday	12/20 9 am	Mouse Newsletter (Library)
Thursday	12/20 7:15 pm	Bethany Choir (Music Room)
Saturday	12/22 9:30 am	Music Sunday Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sunday	12/23 9 am	Everyday Spirit (Library)
Sunday	12/23 9 am	Serendipity (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/23 9:15 am	Bethany Choir (Music Room)
Sunday	12/23 10 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Sunday	12/23 11:15 am	The Present Word (Small Hall)
Monday	12/24 7 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service
Monday	12/24 11 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service
Tuesday	12/25	Christmas Day - Church Office closed

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

www.bethanyrochester.org

663-3000

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM