

## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 6, 2020

10:00 AM

### PRELUDE

“The Holly and the Ivy”

Herbert Sumsion

### WELCOME

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: On this second Sunday of Advent, we look to the wonders of creation. Before there were mountains and mornings and meadows and birds making homes in trees, there was the mystery of God’s love. This love is revealed as God weaves all good things into a cloth of great beauty. God says, “Let there be light,” and there is light. When this creation must be renewed and redeemed, God says, “Prepare my way.” And John the Baptist cries out in the wilderness, proclaiming love and truth, justice and peace, and the coming of God into our lives.

We light this candle as a sign of our belief in the Creator working in the tapestry of our lives. We proclaim that God is Weaver, Giver, Maker, Lover, Dreamer, and Author of all.

**All: Great Creator God, may we be open to the spirit of John the Baptist, who proclaimed your coming. Help us to hold fast to the promise of your creative and transforming love even when this world seems a wilderness to us. Help us to prepare your way in this world, so that your glory may be revealed and all people shall see it together; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### HYMN #129

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright she bore for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he  
saves us and lightens every load.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Leader: If we say that we are without sin we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth. But if we confess our sins, God is capable and just. God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. With this confidence let us approach the throne of grace.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison) Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

**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 right living. Amen**

Leader: Let us in silence ask for forgiveness of our own personal sins.

(Silence)

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS** Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (Unison) Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

**O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Psalm 85:8-13 Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

**SOLO**

“Lullaby”  
Jeff Tabor, tenor

John Ness Beck

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Mark 1: 1-8

**HYMN #110**

“Love Has Come”

Love has come--a light in the darkness!  
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love!  
Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come share in the wonder;  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come--He never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us;  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

**SHARING OF CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS**

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

**INVITATION TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH** Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski  
Leader: Let us remember to support Christ’s church.

**OFFERTORY**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** (Unison) Lay liturgist – Cindi Sywulski

**We give thanks to you, O God. By your word spoken, worlds are put into their orbit. By the call of prophets, our paths are set straight. By the word made flesh, our hope is made complete. We pray in His name. Amen.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Commitment (Unison)

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN #128**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
 saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.  
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:  
 Christ the babe was born for you!  
 Christ the babe was born for you!

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

“In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach

**BETHANY CALENDAR**

Sunday	12/6	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom,Facebook Live, Boxcast)
Sunday	12/6	11 am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)
Monday	12/7	7 pm	Stephen Ministers (Large Hall)
Tuesday	12/8	10 am	Personnel Committee (Zoom)
Tuesday	12/8	7:30 pm	Congregational Life (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/9	10 am	Staff meeting – (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/9	4 pm	Organ Task Force meeting - (Large Hall)
Wednesday	12/9	6:30 pm	Spiritual Growth (Zoom)
Thursday	12/10	7 pm	Spirituality & Social Justice Group (Zoom)
Thursday	12/10	7 pm	Choir meeting (Zoom)
Sunday	12/13	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom,Facebook Live, Boxcast)
Sunday	12/13	11 am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Jocelyn, Craig, Scott and Norm and family at the passing of their father, Wendy Discher.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to John Klafehn and family at the passing of his wife, Diane Klafehn.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** As of November 27, 2020, we have 120 pledges with \$269,102 pledged. We need your support! If you have not yet filled out your estimate of giving card please do so. If you did not receive an estimate of giving card, please call the church office at 663-3000.

**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.

**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 December 14.

**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 and January 22, 2021 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.

**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/2439114>



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

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