

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 13, 2020

10:00 AM

PRELUDE “Andante Sostenuto from Symphonie Gothique” Charles-Marie Widor

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus as God’s joy among us. A day is coming when God will gather all; even the oppressed and the outcast will come home, and we shall rejoice. Until that day, we serve an aching world in the power of the Spirit, exchanging fear for gladness, and worry for prayer. We pray for the day when God’s salvation is fully come and the whole world rejoices.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, your joy we already know and celebrate. But we long for our weary world to know the joy of a new beginning. Help us to share your joy with all who are hungry or weighed down by sorrow, both those we meet every day, and those around the globe we will never meet. Amen.

HYMN # 119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION Lay liturgist – Cindy Hetzler

Leader: The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you.
And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and treat others as we 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 – Cindy Hetzler

**Forgive us, Lord, if we have hindered Your entrance into our lives,
if we have been preoccupied by work or play,
if we have barred You from certain aspects of our private lives,
if we have worshiped our possessions.
Forgive us, we pray, and clear away any barriers that keep You from the
core of our being. Amen.**

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Lay liturgist – Cindy Hetzler

Leader: Hear and believe the good news of the gospel,
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison) Lay liturgist – Cindy Hetzler

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 35:1-10 Lay liturgist – Cindy Hetzler

ANTHEM “Comfort ye, my people, Ev’ry valley shall be exalted” J.S. Bach
Jeff Tabor, tenor

SECOND SCRITPURE READING First Kings 21:1-15

SERMON Dr. Bob Spratt

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

SHARING OF CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger
Leader: Let us remember to support Christ's church.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison) Lay liturgist – Cindy Hetzler
Having given these gifts today, we pledge to continue our generosity as we share our time, talents, and love in daily life. Amen.

HYMN # 113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 553”

J.S. Bach

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	12/13	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom/Facebook Live)
Sunday	12/13	11 am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)
Monday	12/14	3 pm	Serendipity (Zoom)
Monday	12/14	7 pm	Life Group #2 (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/16	10 am	Staff meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/16	4 pm	Organ Task Force meeting - (Large Hall)
Thursday	12/17	7 pm	Bethany Choir - (Zoom)
Friday	12/18	3 pm	Life Group #4 (Large Hall)
Sunday	12/20	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom/Facebook Live)
Sunday	12/20	11 am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)

Offering envelopes can be picked up on Sunday the 13th 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.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Louise Klotzbach and Heather Oonk and family, at the passing of Zigmunt "Ozzie" Ozarowsky.

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 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