

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 27, 2020

First Sunday of Christmas

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Andante religioso from Sonata IV”

Felix Mendelssohn

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 148

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

People: Praise God, all the angels; praise God all the heavenly host!

Pastor: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God all you shining stars!

People: Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God commanded and they were created.

Pastor **People: God established them forever and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Pastor: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

People: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Pastor: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

People: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Pastor: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

People: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is exalted.

People: The Lord has raised up a horn for the people, praise for all the faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to God. Praise the Lord!

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 – Kim Bolinger

Leader: Nothing will separate us from God's love, which encourages us to confess our need of grace and forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

Holy and merciful God, in your presence and before our brothers and sisters we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you and your people. You alone know how often we have sinned in straying, ignoring forgetting and hiding our light. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for what we have done to others and to displease you. Forgive our omissions and our commissions. Help us to live in your light and walk in your ways. Amen

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

Leader: Hear these words of Christ: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

People: Let us journey onward in the Light of God, who forgives us and loves us and illumines us each day.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison) Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

Merciful Lord, let the brightness of your light shine upon your Church so that all of us, instructed by Scripture, may walk in the light of your truth. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 1:1-5 Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

ANTHEM

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”
Jeff Tabor, tenor

Harry T. Burleigh

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

“A Visitor”

Dr. Roderic P. Frohman

HYMN #144

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

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 – Kim Bolinger
O God, we praise you for the Light which appeared among us in Jesus Christ.
May this offering help us to share that Light with those who sit in darkness and
in the shadow of death. Amen.

***HYMN #133**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Allegro maestoso from Sonata IV”

Felix Mendelssohn

OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY: Roderic P. Frohman

Serving most recently as Associate Pastor for Church in Society, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY, Rod retired in 2012. He has a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has been a city pastor for 40 years in Philadelphia, Gary, Indiana, Minneapolis and Rochester. He is a 1967 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. He is a 1971 graduate of Princeton Seminary. At Third Presbyterian Church Rod directed an outreach ministry composed of forty programs with approximately 430 volunteers. With Presbytery of Genesee Valley colleague and life-long friend, James Evinger, Rod consults with congregations about their outreach ministries. He also regularly teaches adult Sunday School classes specializing in Bible and Church History. He is married to Marcia Frohman a retired public school teacher and former manager of One World Goods in Pittsford. Rod is also a grandfather of two and a season-ticket holder to the Rochester Red Wings which he greatly missed this past season. Wait till next year!!

BETHANY CALENDAR

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|-----------|-------|-------|---|
| Sunday | 12/27 | 10 am | Virtual Worship Service – (Facebook, Bethany website, Boxcast) |
| Sunday | 12/27 | 11 am | Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom) |
| Wednesday | 12/30 | 4 pm | Organ Task Force meeting - (Large Hall) |
| Thursday | 12/31 | 7 pm | Bethany Choir - (Zoom) |
| Sunday | 1/3 | 10 am | Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom/Facebook Live, Boxcast) |
| Sunday | 1/3 | 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.

Link to Boxcast

<https://boxcast.tv/view/bethany-sunday-service-143354>

LIFE GROUP #2: Will now resume via Zoom Meeting 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 28.

LIFE GROUP #4: Are you looking for a light, casual Bible study that meets in the afternoon? Join Bev Bennett on Friday, January 22, 2021 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.

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