



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

# Welcome to Bethel! We're glad you're here!

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 10, 2023



## All Are Welcome!

We mean it when we say “all are welcome” – no matter where you are on your faith journey or how you identify. Your presence is important to us – we are not complete without you. Our Worship & Music team is continually listening and adapting our worship practices to reflect our desire to welcome ALL of GOD’S children.

### Hospitality Details

We firmly believe that there is no age limit in GOD’S house. Young or old, you are an essential part of our worship community. Families with young children are encouraged to sit near the front of the sanctuary so children can see what is happening. If a young child gets antsy during long periods of inaction like the sermon, they are welcome to quietly play in front of the sound table near the door.

Those participating in worship who find standing for long periods of time difficult are encouraged to take care of themselves and adapt the “Lutheran Aerobics” of frequent standing and sitting to meet their needs. Traditions of standing at certain times during the liturgy are not meant to cause pain or discomfort. Please sit or stand in ways that make your time with us comfortable.

If you need a restroom, you have options:

In the main building, one is located through the side door near the piano. It can also be accessed by going outside through the main door and re-entering the building using the door located under the bell tower. The restroom will be to your left.

A larger, wheelchair accessible restroom with a baby changing table, is located in our back building. Go through the iron gate to the left of the sanctuary. As you enter the back building the restroom is immediately to your left. Feel free to ask the usher for directions as well.

### The Season of Advent has Arrived!

This year, during our Sunday morning worship gatherings, we are following the theme, “God With Us.”

Prayers, responses, and other liturgical pieces will tie together our longing for God to be with us and the fulfilled promise of Immanuel’s birth.

Woven throughout will also be the weekly themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.

We encourage you – maybe even challenge you – to listen for each week’s connections and through these worship gatherings find new ways to recognize God-with-us in our daily lives.

### Wednesdays during Advent

This past Wednesday evening we had a great multi-generational group gather. If you weren’t with us, we encourage you to join us on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

We will **worship at 5:30pm** using the Holden Prayer Service as usual. This quiet liturgy helps keep us centered in the light of Christ during the rush of December. After worship, **around 6:15pm** we will enjoy **soup** together in Lentz Hall.

A sign-up sheet for providing soup, bread, and dessert is available today. We will also need a few folks to commit to coming at 5:15 to set up Lentz Hall. See Terri Larson for details.

*Introduction to the day:* John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.*

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### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

*The congregation is invited to rise in body and/or spirit and turn to face the baptismal font.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Family and friends of Christ, lay down your plans and come together for worship.

**We set aside our lists, plans, and appointments to be mindfully present in worship.**

Bring your worries and fears to the table of peace. Rest in comfort of Immanuel, God-with-us.

**We will not be afraid, we will not worry, for the Prince of Peace is here among us.**

Lift up your eyes and see the world as God sees it, full of promise and potential.

**We open our eyes and our hearts to a new perspective, finding peace in God's hands.**

Listen, people of promise, come together and praise God.

**Let us call his name Immanuel, God-with-us. Come, let us worship!**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Immanuel, God-with-us, God of peace and promise,  
we know we are never alone because you are always with us.**

**You were with us when we were anxious and worried, unable to feel peace.**

**You were with us when we were causing chaos and disrupting the peace.**

**You were with us when we forfeited our peace in exchange for other obsessions.**

**You know these imperfections and moments of loss.**

**We confess them with boldness because you never leave nor forsake us.**

**Forgive us, God.**

**Amen.**

Because God is faithful to forgive us, and because God loves us unconditionally, we are at peace with our Creator.

Be pardoned.

Receive grace today and be free to love yourself, your neighbors, and our God.

**Amen.**

*Please turn and face the altar for the Gathering Song.*

# GATHERING SONG *Prepare the Royal Highway*

(ELW 264)



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## GREETING (ELW p. 138)

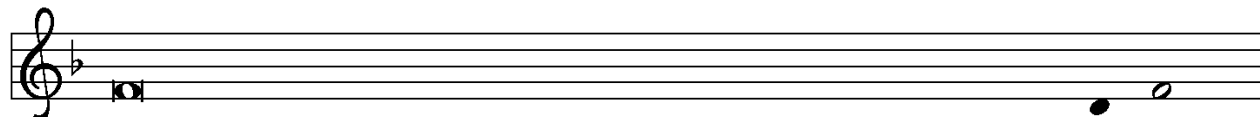
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

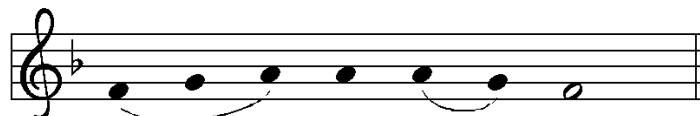
## KYRIE (ELW p. 138)



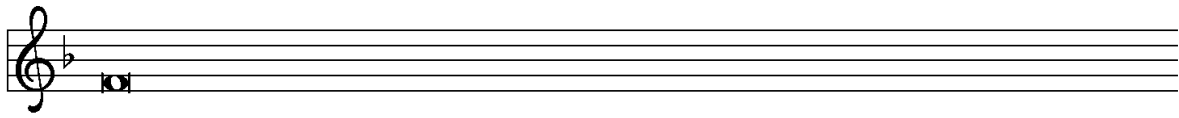
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



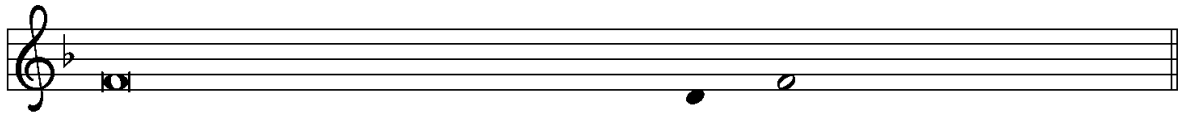
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



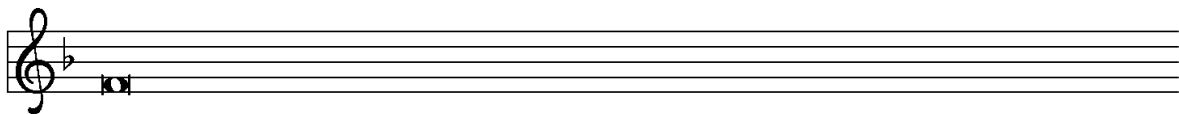
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



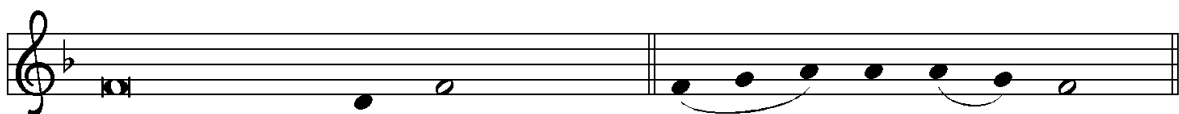
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

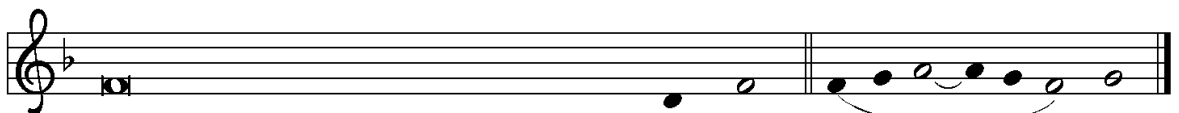


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



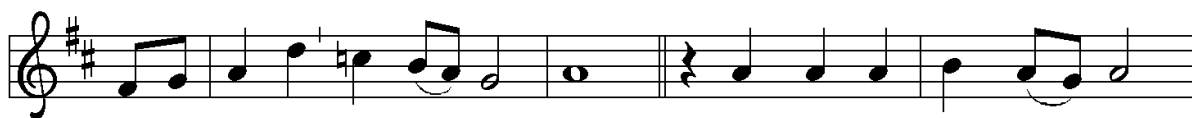
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

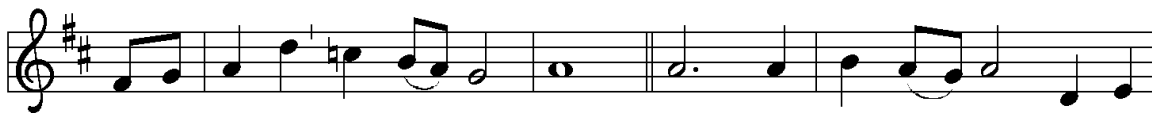


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

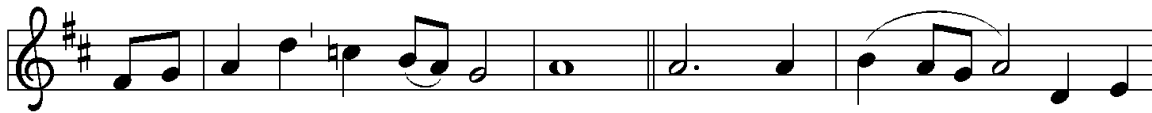


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Immanuel, God-with-us, and God of peace and promise,  
 you called Joseph to leave his plans behind and trust your vision for his family and future.  
 Like Joseph, we set aside the noise of our lives to seek you and your ways together.  
 We focus our attention and imagination upon the gift of Jesus.  
 We praise you in the sanctuary of peace,  
 whose architect is your wisdom and whose builder is your Spirit.  
 Receive our busy minds and bodies into the tranquil waters of your presence.  
 Refresh us with a renewal of our calling into the adventure of discipleship.  
 Amen.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 40:1-11 (Jeff Dodge)

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

*A reading from Isaiah.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
 that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,  
 that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
 the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,  
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (Jeff Dodge)

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING:** 2 Peter 3:8-15a (Jeff Dodge)

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

*A reading from 2 Peter.*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

<sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



## KIDS' MESSAGE & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (Pr. Allen Dunn)

*(Read by Pr. Carolyn after "message" as children light candles)*

Into a hopeless world, Immanuel will be born, God with us, hope for all. And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Today, we light the candle of hope, because in God's presence, we find hope.

*Light the first candle.*

Into a violent world, Immanuel will be born, God-with-us, Prince of Peace. And the Prince of Peace tells us when we become peacemakers, we will be called Children of God. Today, we light the candle of peace, because in God's presence, we find peace.

*Light the second candle.*

*The congregation is invited to rise in body and/or spirit to welcome the gospel*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8 (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,'"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

## SERMON (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

The congregation is invited to rise in body and/or spirit for the Hymn of the Day.

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Let Us Go Now to the Banquet* (ELW 523)

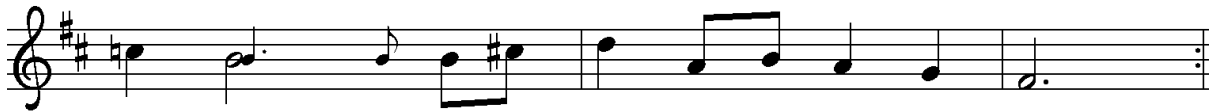
*Refrain / Estribillo*



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la  
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -  
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.  
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -  
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -  
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the  
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la  
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm  
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be  
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

*Refrain / Estribillo*



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.  
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.  
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.  
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

## CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world in this Season of Advent and confess our shared faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Jeff Dodge)

Immanuel, God-with-us, God of peace and promise,  
into your presence we offer the joys, concerns, griefs, and sorrows of our community and our world.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Additional prayer requests provided by congregation members to be added here by reader.*

We find peace as we offer the hills and valleys of our lives to your discipleship and care. Form us to be a community at peace, spending our labors not on petty conflicts but deep convictions.

**Amen**

## PEACE

When we gather, God is with us.

And when God is with us, peace dwells among us.

Speak a word of peace to your neighbor, to your family members, to a stranger.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God  
and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of  
the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.  
Thank you so much for your continued support.*

*The congregation is invited to rise in body and/or spirit for the song as offerings are brought to altar.*

## OFFERING SONG

*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*

(ELW 184)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Immanuel, God-with-us,  
God of peace and promise,  
as we part with our resources,  
returning an offering from the abundance of your provision,  
we are filled with peace.

We entrust this faith community to use our collective gifts  
in partnering with your mission of peace on earth.

Receive our offering because we trust your promises,  
and we know we will reap love and justice.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Friends and family of Christ, as we enter a time of communion, prepare your hearts to come to the table of peace. Choose peace over pettiness, peace over fears, peace over revenge, and peace over violence.

Jesus prepares a table for us. He extends the bread of life and cup of blessing to all who desire to be fed by the feast. This fellowship welcomes you to come to the table, no matter where you are on your journey, no matter where you come from, whom you love, your identity, or level of understanding. All willing hearts are welcome. Come and feast upon the peace of Christ.

Like a lullaby to a drowsy baby or a sonnet to a wizened lover, the stories of our faith minister to our hearts. Allow the Spirit to speak to you again through the story of that great supper of love:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the  
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of Immanuel, God-with-us, we come to the table of peace,  
confident that through the incarnation of Jesus, we are all made whole.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

God our Loving Parent,  
may this ageless meal of bread and wine fill us up with hope,  
overflowing with sincere devotion to the world you are creating in us and around us.

Holy Spirit, just as you spoke to Jesus in the wilderness,  
to Mary in her solitude, and to our own elders in their prayers, speak to our hearts.  
Guide us into truth.

Jesus, our friend and brother, our redeemer and peace, may we grow to know you better,  
to be undeterred by counterfeit forms of you,  
and to be simple reflections of you to the world around us.

**Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of our hearts.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.  
Please have a seat and follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the usher.*

*The congregation is invited to rise in body and/or spirit for the song at the conclusion of communion.*

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (Nelson) (ELW 207)*



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Immanuel, God-with-us, God of peace and promise,  
you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing.  
Our hearts and minds are restored once again to the peace of your Spirit.  
And as we leave this table,  
we leave with the assurance you accompany us along the journey  
until we meet together again.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### BLESSING

The God of peace bless you,  
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry*

(ELW 249)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*After **brief announcements** related to the ministry of Bethel are shared from the podium **microphone**, the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.*

## DISMISSAL

Friends of God and pilgrims along the journey of faith,  
go in peace.

Go in peace of mind.

Go and make peace with your neighbor.

And go in peace with God.

May you go forth in the confidence God is with you  
and so is your family of faith.

**Thanks be to God and we will.**





## Finance Update

To meet our 2023 Operating Expenses each month, Bethel needs **\$6968**

### Giving in December

12/3	=	\$2357
12/10	=	\$
12/17	=	\$
12/24	=	\$
12/31	=	\$
Total for Month	=	\$

**TOTAL for November = \$5987**

Thanks for your ongoing support of



### Consider Online Giving

Sign up for Online Giving at our website, [bethelroseville.org](http://bethelroseville.org)

*If you prefer to give by traditional check, please mail it into the church office at 1050 Douglas Blvd., Roseville CA 95678 or drop it into the basket during worship.*

Use the QR code below to access e-giving from your phone



### Upcoming Scripture Readings

Next Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- Psalm 126
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8, 19-28

## Today's Worship Team

**Usher:** Jeff & Lan Dodge

**Reader:** Jeff Dodge

**Sound:** Rick Mendonsa

**Zoom:** Jeff Dodge/Scott Larson

**Altar Guild:** Loraine Anderson

**Kids Message:** Pr. Allen Dunn

**Musician:** Audrey Gale

## Next Week's Worship Team

**Usher:** Terri Larson + Little Lutherans

**Reader:** Little Lutherans

**Sound:** Rick Mendonsa

**Zoom:** Jeff Dodge/Scott Larson

**Altar Guild:** Loraine Anderson

**Kids Message:** n/a

**Musician:** Audrey Gale

## “Noisy Offering!”

Encouraging the participation of our youngest members in worship is important to us. When they help collect the offering each week, they may be confused when folks don't drop something in the basket. So, please consider dropping a little spare change into the basket when it comes your way as a “noisy offering.” The “noisy offering” will be periodically donated to a local charity.

## Prayer Requests

Yellow paper is available as you enter for you to write prayer requests on. Return the paper to an usher no later than during the Hymn of the Day. The reader will include it during the Prayers of the People.

It is our hope that this will help all those worshipping in the sanctuary and on online to hear the prayers.

## Contact Pastor Carolyn

Contact Pr. Carolyn first to double-check her office hours. She is available Tuesday – Thursday most weeks.

[pastor@bethelroseville.org](mailto:pastor@bethelroseville.org)  
916-781-3333 (office)



## Sunday School for All Ages

(following worship)

Children will meet in Lentz Hall to prepare to lead worship next week.

Pastor Carolyn will meet with the adults. They will be using the book, *The Forty Parables of Jesus*, by Gerhard Lohfink.



Looking for a little end of the week fun?

Join us **during December on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm** in Lentz Hall for some games and fellowship.

Bring your own food and drinks – and games you'd like to play with the group.

*Bring a friend and join the fun!*



December 1 – Lisa Herlocker  
December 1 – Kary Pfennig  
December 3 – Jason Hetland  
December 5 – Tyler Linn  
December 11 – Emily Boswell  
December 19 – Sawyer Linn Gish  
December 27 – Vincent Villanueva  
December 30 – Katelyn (Swanson) Headington

*Blessings to all of our December Birthdays, please let us know if we accidentally left you off this list!*

### Special Opportunity

Join Bread for the World on Zoom Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 5:00pm. Get an update on where things are with the Farm Bill slowing making its way through Congress, as well as learn more about a new Offering of Letters campaign *Nourish Our Future* to address children's hunger.

To register, please click here: [Join me for the Nourish Our Future advocacy campaign launch](#)

## Save these Dates!

### Wednesdays, December 13, and 20

Advent Worship Gathering at 5:30pm **AND** Soup Supper at 6:15pm

**NOTE** – new start time for both worship and soup supper fellowship

### Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am

Worship led by our Little Lutherans

### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – morning worship gathering at 9:00am

Special 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Liturgy by variety of congregation members

### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Gathering

Two options including communion – 5:00pm and 11:00pm

We will be joined by our friends at Incarnation

### Monday, Christmas Morning, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

Celebrate with a simple gathering of guitar-led Christmas carols including communion

### Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00am

Special “Lessons and Carols” worship gathering

### Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm – *tentative plans*

Family New Year's Eve Celebration

## Annual St. John's Christmas "Store"

We are collecting donations for the women at the shelter run by the St. John's Program for Real Change in Sacramento. Our donations are used to set up a "store" for the children living there to "shop" for a gift for their mother. This year about 55 women are being housed at the shelter along with 43 children.

The best donations are things like cozy socks, gloves, journals, lotions, and other small items that don't need power. We will also need gift bags.

Donations may be left in the back of the sanctuary through Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.

Interested in helping with the "store"? We will be heading down on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00pm. We'll spend about 2 hours there. Contact Cindi Roxworthy to volunteer or to get your questions answered.



Be sure to join us next week when our Little Lutherans will lead worship, Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am!

Through their reading and singing we'll hear familiar stories in new ways. Please come and support their developing leadership skills – children aren't the Future of the Church, they ARE the Church today!

*Want to do what the kids are doing on the 17<sup>th</sup>? Talk to Lisa H. about how you can help lead worship on Sunday morning, December 24<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.*



**Check out the ELCA Good Gifts catalogs in the back of the sanctuary and shop for Christmas gifts that make a real difference!**

Choose your gifts from projects with direct impact in people's lives. Items are chosen after listening to community partners, companion churches, and other partners in ministry so that communities get exactly the help they need. Your generosity allows for flexibility and adaptable projects in order the help in ways that make the most difference in people's lives.

Order gifts through the catalog with a check or online at [elca.org/goodgifts](http://elca.org/goodgifts)



**A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who showed up yesterday to help decorate the sanctuary!**

The tree looks great, and as always, the garlands hanging from the rafters lend just the right amount of festive flair!

Special thanks to the Larson & Villanueva families for heading to the forest to harvest our tree – and to Susan Woods for providing doughnuts to encourage/reward the decorating team!

# Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

*Following the example set by Jesus Christ and being mindful of our Lutheran heritage of acceptance through God's grace, we welcome all to God's table. We invite all who are seeking God's love and grace to join us in worship and fellowship. We welcome all because God welcomes all, knowing that God's love is all-inclusive and stronger than any pressure to conform to the labels this world gives us.*

*We commit to providing a safe and welcoming place for people of any age, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome and love all no matter their socio-economic circumstances, outward appearance, immigration status, political affiliation, or anything that could seemingly divide us. The nature and extent of one's addictions, physical and mental health, or criminal history have no bearing on our commitment to welcome all.*

*We affirm today, tomorrow, and for all of our days, that we will intentionally strive to live as people of faith, people of compassion, people of love, and people of grace.  
We invite you to come as you are to Meet, Pray, & Love together.*

Today, in the Season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus, Emmanuel, "God with Us". We ponder the awesomeness of incarnation and what it means for God to move, act, and live with us. We wait with patience for the return of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us today at worship and in our daily lives. Even as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we slow down to be in God's hopeful, peaceful presence.

No matter where you are on your faith journey,  
we invite you to explore with us.

Welcome.

**Worship Gathering at 9:00am each Sunday  
Sunday School for All Ages at 10:15am (Sept - May)**



**Bethel**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Carolyn Brodt, Pastor**

**1050 Douglas Blvd • Roseville, CA • 916-781-3333**

**[Pastor@bethelroseville.org](mailto:Pastor@bethelroseville.org)**



*Bethel is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Nisenan people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

