



1st Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS • DECEMBER 31, 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 Congregational Life Team is planning an all-ages New Year’s Eve Celebration beginning at 6:00pm tonight!!

Join us and celebrate with games, food, and ringing in the new year!

(We locate ourselves in the Eastern Time Zone for the event, so 2024 will arrive at 9:00pm so no one has to stay up too late!)

If you would like to attend, please let Terri Larson know today.

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
916-781-3333 (office)

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, we ponder that the birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all those of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

GATHERING

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

OPENING SONG/PRELUDE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)

WELCOME

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Please turn and face the altar for the Gathering Song.

GATHERING SONG

Savior of the Nations Come

Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—
Of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and man in one
Eager now his race to run!

God the creator is his source
Back to God he runs his course
Down to death and hell descends
God's high throne he reascends.

Glory to the Father sing
Glory to the Son, our king
Glory to the Spirit be
Ever and eternally!

DIALOGUE

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all
creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his
presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.

Please be seated

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 (Barbara Morris)

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

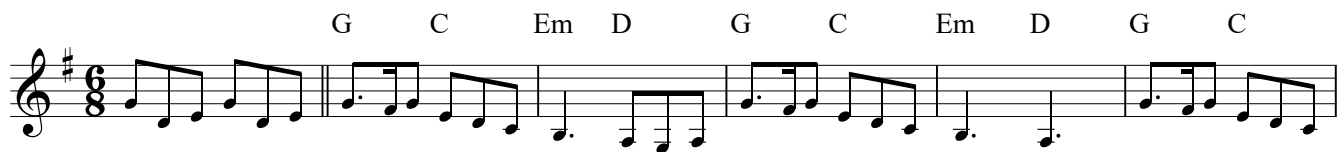
³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

HYMN: *Hope Was Born This Night*

©Ben McDonald & David Frey

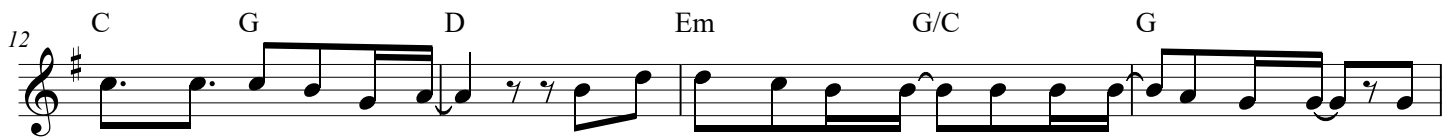
INTRO



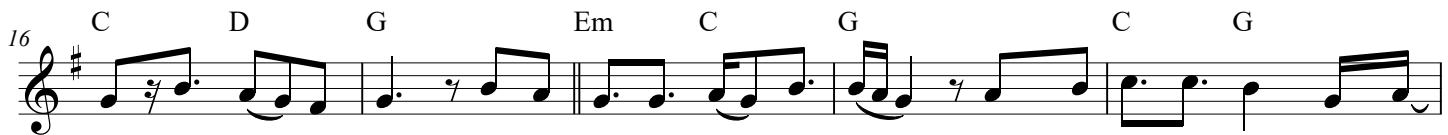
VERSE 1



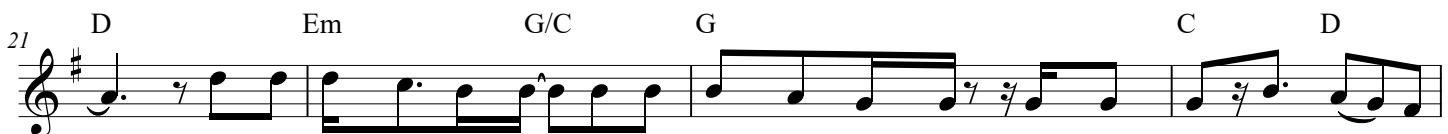
1. To night I can see a star shine and its



splen - dor fills up the sky. It's the same that ap - peared and the wise men re - vered when



hope was born this night. Out up - on the snow - y fields there's a sil - ent peace that heals.



And it ech - oes the grace of our Sav - ior's em - brace be - cause hope was born this

CHORUS

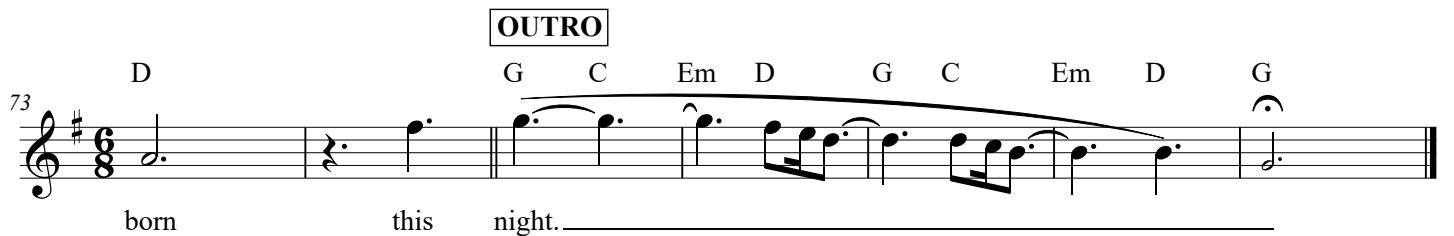
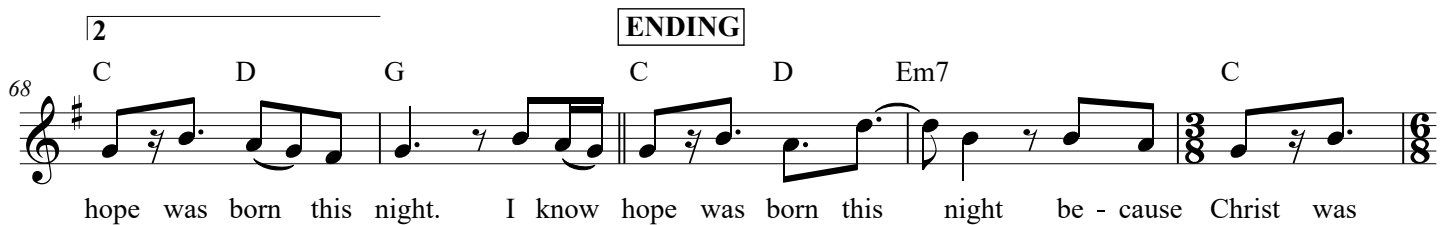
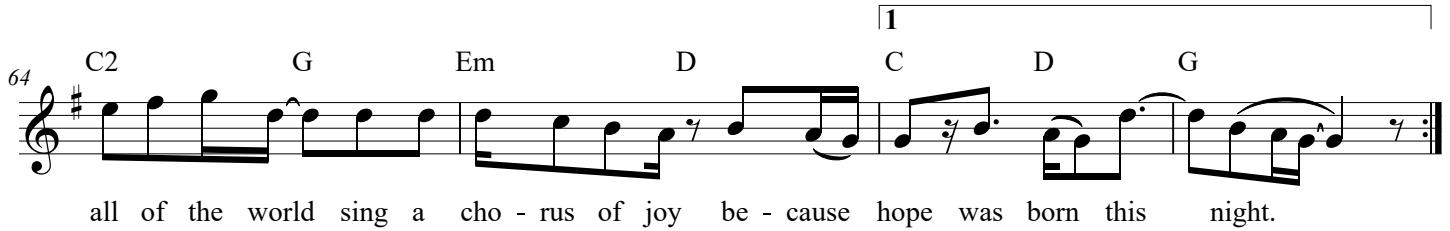
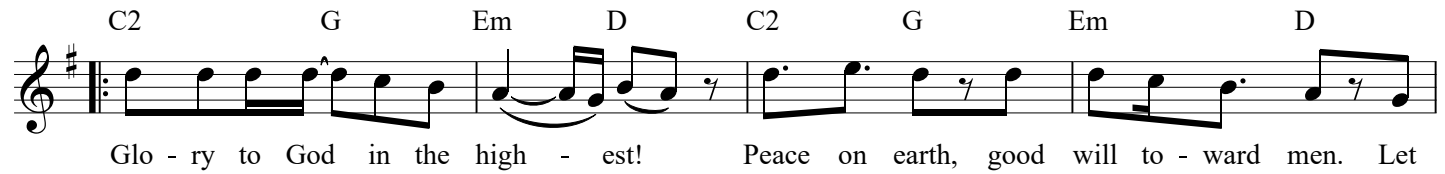
25 G C2 G Em D C2 G Em D
 night. Glo - ry to God in the high - est! Peace on earth, good will to - ward men. Let
 C2 G Em D C D 2nd time to Coda G
 30 all of the world sing a cho - rus of joy be - cause hope was born this night. 2. I can

VERSE 2

Em C G C G D
 hear the Christ - mas bells ring as soft - ly a church choir sings. It's the
 38 Em G/C G C D G Em C
 song used to praise the An - cient of Days when hope was born this night. There are an - gels in this
 43 G C G D Em G/C
 place and my heart re - sounds with the praise. Like a shep - herd, so scared, I'll re -
 47 G C D G D.S. al Coda
 joice and de - clare that hope was born this night.

BRIDGE

50 G Coda
 night. Glo - ri - a!
 Em D/F# G
 53 C Em D/F# Em D/F# G C Em D/F# D/F#
 Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! a!

CHORUS**SECOND READING:** Micah 5:2-5a

(Pr. Allen Dunn)

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up
 until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

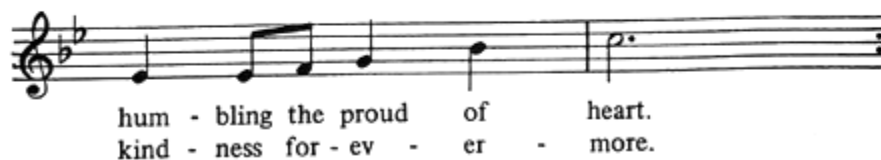
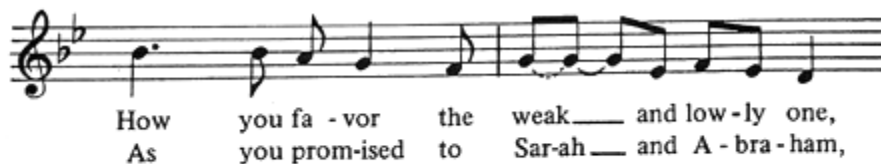
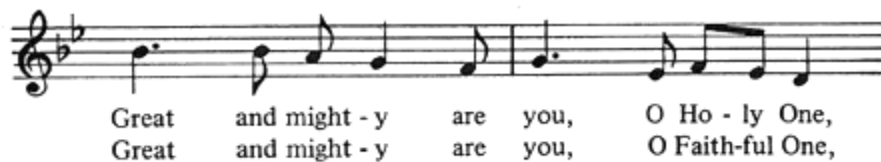
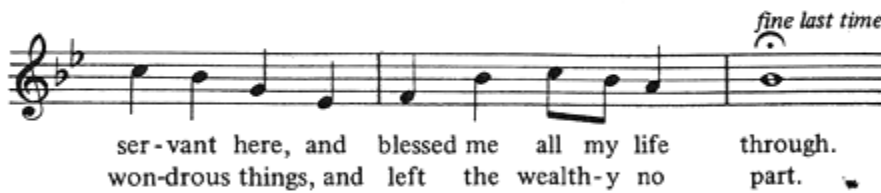
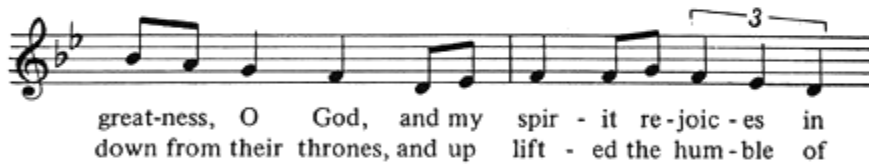
And they shall live secure,
 for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

HYMN:

The Magnificat

©Holden Evening Prayer



THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38

(Terri Larson)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN: *What Child is This?*

ELW 296



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

FOURTH READING: Matthew 1:18-25

(Nancy Garman)

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HYMN: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW 282



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-20

(Bruce Seiler)

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN: *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

ELW 275



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh.
Amen.

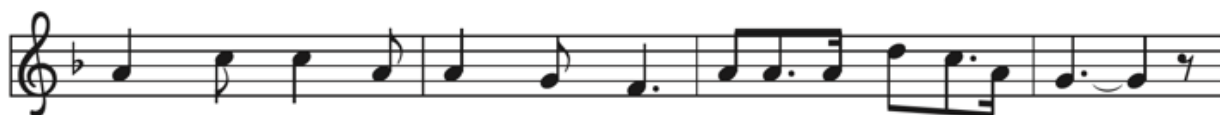
SIXTH READING: John 1:1-14

(Pr. Allen Dunn)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN: *Jesus the Light of the World* ACS 914

Music and lyrics on following page



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
 at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary,
 to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the words of 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

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

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

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

(Barbara Morris)

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Amen.

Please rise in body and/or spirit for the Blessing.

BLESSING

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW 290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

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

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

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	=	\$2237
12/17	=	\$1064
12/24 & 25	=	\$1772.94
12/31	=	\$

Total for Month = **\$7430.94**

TOTAL for November = \$5987

Thanks for your ongoing support of
Bethel's Ministries!



Consider Online Giving

Sign up for Online Giving at our website, 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, January 7th
Baptism of Jesus

- Genesis 1:1-5
- Psalm 29
- Acts 19:1-7
- Mark 1:4-11

Today's Worship Teams

Usher: Susan Woods

Reader: Multiple members

Sound: Rick Mendonsa

Zoom: Jeff Dodge/Scott Larson

Altar Guild: Loraine Anderson

Kids Message: N/A

Musician: Wing and a Prayer + Jeff Dodge

Next Week's Worship Team

Usher: Mike & Loraine Anderson

Reader: Loraine Anderson

Sound: Rick Mendonsa

Zoom: Jeff Dodge/Scott Larson

Altar Guild: Loraine Anderson

Kids Message: Pr. Carolyn Brodt

Musician: Wing and a Prayer

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A huge amount of gratitude to all who pitched in during December to make our Advent and Christmas celebrations meaningful.

Shout outs to Pastor Carolyn & our musicians who pulled extra duty leading extra worship gatherings. Special thanks to the volunteers who kept us full of snacks on Sundays and soup on Wednesdays.

Kudos to those who helped coordinate the details for special worship gatherings – including wrangling kids! High-fives to all of our shoppers who made Christmas special for the families at the St. John's shelter as well as the crew who drove down and set up the shop.

And last, but not least, hooray for all the volunteers who helped decorate the sanctuary!

Now it's time to take it all down ☺

Listen for an announcement later of how you can help out in the week ahead!



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!

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 Christmas, 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 rejoice at his presence among us today at worship and in our daily lives.

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

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.

