

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Scott Thompson, Pastor
Marshall Jones, Director of Music

November 27, 2022



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

We encourage children to feel welcome in church during worship. And we recognize that kids need to move and fidget while we share this time together. Tables and coloring pages are available to kids in both the front of the worship space and in the Commons. Parents, please feel free to let your kids move around as needed.

Today's Worship

Prelude

“Chorale Prelude on “Rejoice, Rejoice”” Aaron David Miller
 Please reflect on the words of the hymn ELW#242 or at
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/ELW2006/242>

THE GATHERING

(please stand)

Confessions and Forgiveness

Presider: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

All: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Presider: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.
(silence for reflection)

Presider: God of new beginnings,

All: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

Presider: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

All: Amen

Gathering Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

ELW#263

Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

Kyrie— Cantor will sing verses. All on refrain

Refrain:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*Wait for the Lord, Text: Taizé Community, Music: Jacques Bertier
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Hymn of Longing— Verse 1

- ➔ 1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.

Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.

Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

*Come Now, O God, Text: David Bjorlin
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Prayer of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen

(be seated)

Children's Sermon/ Advent Wreath– Verse 1



- ⇒ 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 122

Psalm 122:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ¹ I was glad when they ¹ said to me,
 “Let us go to the house ¹ of the LORD.”
- ² **Now our ¹ feet are standing
 within your gates, ¹ O Jerusalem.**
- ³ Jerusalem is built ¹ as a city
 that is at unity ¹ with itself;
- ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes ¹ of the LORD,
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the name ¹ of the LORD. R**
- ⁵ For there are the ¹ thrones of judgment,
 the thrones of the ¹ house of David.
- ⁶ **Pray for the peace ¹ of Jerusalem:
 “May they pros- ¹ per who love you.**
- ⁷ Peace be with- ¹ in your walls
 and quietness with- ¹ in your towers.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred ¹ and companions,
 I pray for ¹ your prosperity.**
- ⁹ Because of the house of the ¹ LORD our God,
 I will seek to ¹ do you good.” R

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation—



4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -

mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.

Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Gospel Reading**Matthew 24:36-44**

Presider: The Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

(be seated)

Sermon**Hymn of the Day**

“My Lord, What a Morning”

ELW#438

The Prayers

Assistant: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

After each portion of the prayers:

Assistant: God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Assistant- God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

MEAL

Offering

"My Lord, What a Morning"

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

The offering is a celebration of God's gift to us in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The table is prepared and we prepare our hearts to receive Holy Communion. As Christ poured out his love for us we pour out that same abundance through our generosity to our neighbors. Thanks be to God for your gifts. Remember, you can give on line at www.bethluth.org/give.

(please stand)

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Sanctus- Verse 2



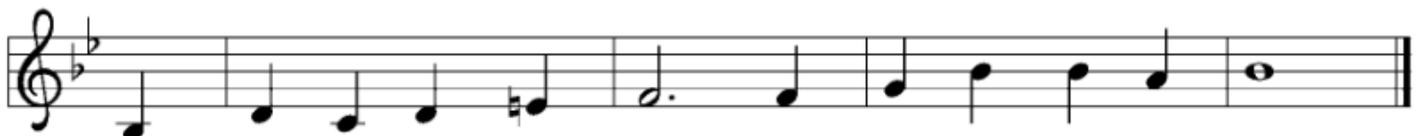
1 What is this place where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR ADVENT

The Lord's Prayer

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

(be seated)

Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the table of Christ. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

Lamb of God

1* 2

Man - y will come from east and west, and from
north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the
king - dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are
they who eat bread in the king - dom, the king - dom of God.

Communion Hymn

“Death Be Never Last”

ACS#1030



1 We walk in light of count - less fac - es
2 When sor - row's heav - y hand has weight - ed
3 When joy re - turns with laugh - ter sing - ing



bright as beams of ris - ing sun, cer - tain as the
loss a - gainst the great - er gain, pin - ning down that
thanks to God for life's sweet song, let us fol - low



morn - ing chas - es night in end - less a - ges' run.
grief sore fat - ed lad - en on the bed of pain.
af - ter bring - ing thanks to God for those now gone.



Refrain
Turn - ing eyes now to their shin - ing mem - 'ry, to their faith - ful past,



saints be now the truth di - vin - ing: death be now but nev - er last.

Death Be Never Last, Ray Makeever
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Communion Hymn

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

ELW#245

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ELW#254

(please stand)

Communion Blessing

Presider: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The Benediction

Presider: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"The King Shall Come"

ELW#260

Dismissal

Assistant: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Wachet Auf"

JS Bach

The Lodge Needs Your Help

The Lodge, the memory care at Buffalo Hill Terrace, is looking for volunteers to offer their Christmas baking talents in December.

They are looking for volunteers to come and bake their Christmas specialties for our taste of Christmas afternoon. Date to be determined. Also, bringing in your batch of Cookies/Treats to bake here as resident are looking on. Other needs for The Lodge would be Caroling.



Women's Annual Christmas Concert and Luncheon

Join First Presbyterian Women's Group for their annual Christmas concert and luncheon on December 1st at 12:00pm. Concert presented by Flathead High Concert Choir. Both the concert and luncheon will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Kalispell.



Valley Neighbors– Takeout Dinner Fundraiser



Valley Neighbors

Valley Neighbors, a non-profit organization who helps immigrants and their families, is hosting a takeout meal cooked by a Filipino chef and community member. Tickets are available for a donation amount of your choice and will be used to support Valley Neighbors' projects. Meal includes: traditional Filipino chicken adobo, rice, green beans, carrots, and a Filipino coconut-rice cake. Search "Valley Neighbors Filipino Cuisine Dinner" at <http://www.evenbrite.com> for more information.

Blood Drive– December 5th

The next Vitalant blood drive at Bethlehem will be **December 5th** from 1:15 to 5:30. Please contact Gary or Glenda to sign up.

Gary Aasheim, 406-698-4138

Glenda Skeim, 406-250-1890



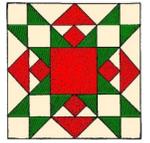
ELCA Good Gifts– Water Well

It's that time of year again and BLC is happy to be fundraising for the ELCA Good Gifts Program! ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. These gifts are real examples from projects currently supported through ELCA churchwide ministries. This year our goal is \$2500 to provide a water well for a village in need. If you would like to donate, you can leave your check, made out to BLC, in the donation plate with a note directing the payment to our Water Well fundraiser or you can donate electronically on our website at <https://bethluth.org/give>. The offering plates will be available on Wednesday's during Advent for contribution as well.



Sheets Needed

The Quilters have been so busy making quilts and have almost run out of sheets that are used for the backs. If you have any size sheets that are still in good shape that you would like to donate to this ministry, please bring them by the church or let one of the quilters know and we can pick them up. Thank you so much!



Tree of Sharing

The Fellowship Committee has chosen the Police/Sheriff's Department for our recipient for the Tree of Sharing this Advent season. We are asking for items that will be given to the Police Department and they will in turn be used to give to persons experiencing crisis situations and for outreach to the homeless. Some of the items needed are two yards of fleece; and warm socks and gloves. All these items will be on the Christmas ornaments on the Tree of Sharing. In addition we are asking several people for 3 dozen cookies that will be brought to the church on December 18th and we will deliver them to the Police Department as a thank you to our law enforcement. As in the past, if you would rather not shop, there will be opportunities to give cash toward these items and we will do the shopping for you! The Tree of Sharing will be decorated with ornaments and in the Commons on November 27th. We ask you to take one or more ornaments and deliver the items back to the church no later than December 18th. If you are giving cash, please use the envelope on the tree and put it in the offering plate.



Thank you so much for all you do to help the less fortunate in our community and to say a huge thank you to our law enforcement officers. If you have any questions, please contact either Peggy Aagenes-Janzer or Linda Erfle.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The beauty of the Sanctuary will be enhanced by a display of poinsettias during the Christmas season. You are invited to participate by contributing \$25 in memory or in honor of someone special. Fill out this form, include payment (make checks payable to BLC) and place in the offering plate, take to the church office, or go to our website and pay by December 31st.

I would like to: Order a poinsettia

Name(s)

Given in memory/honor of



Prayer Concerns: Illness/surgery:

Louise Gullick, Parker, Brad Nelson, Michelle Aalbu, Carol Counsell, Judie Cundy, Don Pencoske, Roland Roth, Jon Erler, and Ed Lindsay.

A Special Thank You To Our Assisting Ministers:

<u>Welcome Hosts:</u>	Sandy Lindlief
<u>Assisting Mnstr/Reader:</u>	Glenda Skeim
<u>Cantor:</u>	Betty Carlson
<u>Communion Setup:</u>	Karen Fisher
<u>Communion Assts:</u>	Gary Aasheim
<u>Ushers:</u>	Peggy and Red Janzer

This Week at Bethlehem

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>11/27</u>
9:00am	Worship
10:20am	Adult Bible Study
<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>11/28</u>
12:00pm	Women on the Go, FH
6:00pm	Feeding the Flathead, FH
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>11/30</u>
6:45am	Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, FH
10:00am	Staff Meeting
5:30pm	Soup Supper
6:30pm	Holden Evening Prayer
7:00pm	Choir
<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>12/01</u>
9:00am	Knitters, FR
9:00am	Quilters, FH
<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>12/03</u>
1:00pm	Mixture
<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>12/04</u>
9:00am	Worship/Sunday School
10:20am	Adult Bible Study

Advent Worship Schedule 2022

November 30th, December 7, 14, 21
 Soup Supper 5:30pm
 Holden Evening Prayer 6:30pm

Christmas Eve, December 24th
 Worship 5:00pm and 9:00pm

Christmas Day, December 25th
 Worship 9:00am