

REJOICE

THE

LIGHT

HAS

COME

Christmas Eve

at Bethany Pres



Welcome to **BETHANY** PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Join us in worship each Sunday at 9:00 am & 10:30 am
www.bethanypc.org

At Bethany, worship is at the very center of our life together. It is the dinner table of our community. We gather on campus and online weekly around this table: a table of welcome where all are invited to take a seat.

Worship often takes a similar form each week, but is never the same. A few things you can count on are: moments of silence, singing, a children's message, a sermon, and communion on the first Sunday of each month.

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We have programs for Children, Youth, and Adults, as well as opportunities for service and outreach. **To find out more about community life at Bethany Presbyterian, you can fill out a CONNECT Card** in the pew in front of you and give it to an usher. You can also fill out our online Connect Card at www.bethanypc.org/connect-card.

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To learn more about Bethany - our sermons, events, and stories - you can visit our website at www.bethanypc.org and also download our mobile app in your App Store.

Bethany's Statement of Purpose:

We believe God intends for our worshiping community to be grounded in God's love, centered on Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, in order to be a blessing to our world, our city, and one another.

Christmas Eve

* Indicates when Congregation stands

Prelude *Once in Royal David's City* by Henry Gauntlett/arr Wayne Wold

Sylvia Oines

GATHERING

***Carol** #133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1 & 3)

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
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest (*Chorus*)

Words of Welcome

Senior Pastor, Doug Kelly

Silent Listening

Call to Worship

Associate Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Danielle Merseles

WAITING FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

***Carol** #127 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, The Light of the World)* (verses 1 & 2) African-American

Hark! The herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world
Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world
We'll walk in the light, beautiful light
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night
Jesus, the light of the world
Joyful, all you nations, rise, Jesus, the light of the world
Join the triumph of the skies, Jesus, the light of the world (*Chorus*)

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Lighting of the Advent Candles

5:30 pm *Leola Ross & Casey Ross Spiers*

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the
coming light of Christ.

7:00 pm *Ryah, Ethan and Kaylee Pelton*

8:30 pm *Rob, Beth and Matt Crittendon*

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. *John 1:1-5*

All: **Jesus, awaken us to Your presence. Dawn upon our lives and rule in our world.**

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9: 2-7

5:30 pm *Casey Ross Spiers*

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

7:00 pm *Danielle Merseles*

³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

8:30 pm *Rob Crittendon*

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Carol #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel; while we are waiting, come

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel; while we are waiting, come

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel; while we are waiting, come

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THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY

Scripture Reading Luke 1: 26-38

5:30 pm *Charlie Montagner*

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel
Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be
married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel
went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

7:00 pm *Leslie Ross*

8:30 pm *Danielle Merseles*

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But
the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive
and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of
the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over
Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will
overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your
relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in
her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary replied. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

A Christmas Prayer

5:30 pm *Matt Montagner*
7:00 pm & 8:30 pm *Danielle Merseles*

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

All: **Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**

Leader: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:
Renew our lives by Your presence.

All: **Let it be with me according to Your word**

Leader: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation:
Release all into Your promised freedom.

All: **Let it be with all according to Your word**

Leader: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem:
May Your church be a sign of hope and joy.

All: **Let it be with us according to Your word**

Leader: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations:
Fulfill our desires in You.

All: **Let it be with me according to Your word**

Leader: O Christ, born of the virgin Mary, Child of wonder and splendor,
Mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: may the whole world live in peace and justice.

All: **Alleluia! Let it be, Lord.**

Carol #119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (verses 1 & 3)

Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing; glory to the newborn King
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing; glory to the newborn King

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 1-7

5:30 pm *Matt Montagner*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all
the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and
was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered.

7:00 pm *Nora Pratt*

⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called
Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered
with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the
time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in
bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8:30 pm *Rob Crittendon*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Danielle Merseles

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of
the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

All: **Jesus, Light of the World, we welcome You!**

Carol *O Holy Night/Hallelujah*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine
Hallelujah

ANGELS PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 8-20

5:30 pm *Madeleine Wilhite*

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel

7:00 pm *Sebastian Stillion*

of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

8:30 pm *Paul Sakata*

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.

***Carol** #113 *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains

And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong

Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song (Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing

Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King (Chorus)

Homily *Sign*

Doug Kelly

Choral Anthem *The Star Carol* by Wihla Hutson and Alfred Burt

Choir

Long years ago on a deep winter night, high in the heav'ns a star shone bright

While in a manger a wee baby lay, sweetly asleep on a bed of hay

Jesus the Lord was that baby so small, laid down to sleep in a humble stall

Then came the star and it stood overhead, shedding its light 'round His little bed

Dear baby Jesus, how tiny Thou art, I'll make a place for Thee in my heart

And when the stars in the heavens I see, ever and always I think of Thee

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

JESUS CHRIST, LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Choral Anthem *O Harken Ye* by Wihla Hutson and Alfred Burt

Choir

O hearken ye who would believe, the gracious tidings now receive

Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo

The mighty Lord of heav'n and earth, today is come to human birth

Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo

O hearken ye who long for peace, your troubled searching now may cease

Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo

For at His cradle you shall find, God's healing grace for all mankind

Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo

O hearken ye who long for love and turn your hearts to God above

Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo

The angel's song the wonder tells: now love incarnate with us dwells

Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo

The Passing of the Light

Please pass the light to your neighbor with the words: "Jesus Christ, Light of the World."

Carol #122 *Silent Night, Holy Night* (verses 1, 2 & 3)

Silent night, holy night; all is calm, all is bright

'Round yon virgin mother and child; Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night; shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night; Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

***Carol** #134 *Joy to the World* (verses 1, 2 & 4)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing

And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love

And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love

Benediction

Doug Kelly

Postlude *Recessional* by G.F. Handel

Sylvia Oines

You may leave your used candle in the bin by the exit or take it with you.

*“By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

Luke 1:78-79



*May the light of Christ
dawn upon our lives
and rule in our world
this Christmas and
in the coming year.*

Blessings on you and yours.

