



OPEN THE
HEAVENS
AND COME
DOWN



Advent
AT BETHANY PRES

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Pastorale in F Major* by J. S. Bach *Sylvia Oines*

Welcome *Rev. Lynne Blessing, Worship Leader*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Advent Processional *by Daniel Greg* *Chancel Choir*

We will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus

Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus (2x)

Till He comes again

We will wait on Him, wait with hope

Wait on Him, wait with hope (2x)

Till He comes again

Come, O Rose of Sharon

Come, O Prince of Peace

Come, O Rose of Sharon

Come, Emmanuel

We will reach our hands out in service

Reach our hands out in service (2x)

Till He comes again

We will dry the tears of one another

Dry the tears of one another (2x)

Till He comes again

***Song** *Hope For Everyone* *by Matt Maher and Jason Ingram*

Hear the angels sing, there's hope for everyone

To announce our King, there's hope for everyone

What good news they bring, there's hope for everyone

Angels sing, there's hope for everyone

They came from afar, there's hope for everyone

Wise men saw the star, there's hope for everyone

Shepherds hear the choir, there's hope for everyone

From afar, there's hope for everyone

We are waiting on the promise

For the One who lights the darkness

Bending low to be among us

Bring Your glory in the highest, Jesus

Come let us adore, there's hope for everyone

On the manger floor, there's hope for everyone

What are you waitin' for, there's hope for everyone

Come adore, there's hope for everyone (*Chorus*)

Come then, on the clouds, there's hope for everyone

Hear the trumpets sound, there's hope for everyone

All of heaven shouts, there's hope for everyone

On the clouds, there's hope for everyone (*Chorus*)

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jay Derr & Xavier Shaw-Jones

People: We are God's people.

We light this candle as a sign of God's hope,

that brightens grey skies

like the rosy brushstrokes of dawn

and the glow of the turning leaves

O come, Immanuel.

***Hymn** #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come (Verses 1 & 2)*

Silent Listening

Prayer of Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness

Children's Message

Mary Anne Thomas

Song *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!

These are gifts You bring from above

Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be

Light of Your hope, reflected in me

Responding to God's Great Love

[>> Click Here to Give Online >>](#)

Leader: You have given all to me.

People: To you, Lord, I return it.

Leader: Everything is Yours.

People: **Do with it what You will.**

Leader: Give me only Your love and grace.

People: **That is enough for me.**

***Hymn** #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1, 5, & 7)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ushers

Our Prayers to God

Doug Kelly

[>> Click Here for the Virtual Prayer Wall >>](#)

Scripture Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 (Pew Bible: NT, p. 654)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *The Arrival of Hope*

Danielle Merseles

The Sacrament of Our Lord's Supper

Please come forward to form two lines. There are two ways to receive the sacrament: you may take a communion kit and partake of it in your pew; or you may receive a piece of bread, dip it in the common cup, and partake of the elements. If you would like gluten-free, just ask your server for it. Those who do not wish to receive the sacraments can simply cross their arms and they will receive a brief blessing. A leader is available up front for intercessory prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (p. 35 in hymnal)

Hymn #82 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne

***Song** *Living Hope* by Phil Wickham

How great the chasm that lay between us

How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness
Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope
Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me (*Repeat*)
Jesus, Yours is the victory (*Chorus*)

Benediction *Danielle Merseles*

Postlude *Sleepers Awake* *by J. S. Bach* *Sylvia Oines*

**Congregation, please rise in body or in spirit.*

Preaching Today: *Associate Pastor, Danielles Merseles*

Leading Worship: *Rev. Lynne Blessing*

Ministers: *You, who are touched by God's grace, being healed by God's love.*

Date: *December 3, 2023*

Cover: *Rich Erickson, "From Mount Erie" Anacortes*

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TODAY

Preaching today is Associate Pastor, Danielle Merseles, and leading worship is Rev. Lynne Blessing. *Lynne moved to Seattle in 2003 and is deeply grateful for 20 years of communion with the Bethany community, first as a pastor for outreach and now as an outreach partner with Urban Impact in Rainier Beach. She is learning a lot while helping lead Homework Clubs and Summer Enrichment Camps for the precious children of Emerald City Commons (and would be delighted to talk to anyone interested in being part of these programs!). She and Jim relish time with their two high schoolers, especially when they are all unplugged and wandering around in the PNW wilderness.*

Children's Programming

- **Childcare:** *Ages 2 years and younger in room #102 at the beginning of both services.*
- **9:00am:** *Individual classes for children 3 years old through 5th grade after the Children's Message.*
- **10:45am:** *Classes for preschoolers, and Godly Play for kindergartners through 3rd graders after the Children's Message. 4th and 5th graders stay in the sanctuary with their families.*

NEWS & NOTES

Wednesday Night Dinner Giving Tree | *Please consider giving a Christmas gift to one of our regular Wednesday Night Dinner guests. Choose an ornament from the WND tree in the lobby. Please wrap your gift and return it by Dec. 17th, with the ornament attached. These gifts will be distributed at Wednesday Night Dinner on Dec. 20th. Thanks so much!*

Advent Art | *The tapestries in the sanctuary, photography exhibit in the Ramp Room, and bulletin cover art are all images by local photographer, Rich Erickson. Rich curated these with our 2023 Advent theme in mind, "Open the heavens and come down," selecting images that focus primarily on clouds and the notion of Heaven in some form breaking through to us.*

Advent Devotionals | *This Advent season, we have devotionals available from one of our outreach partners, Frontier Fellowship. Join our ministry partner in this Advent journey through reflection, prayer, worship, and song. You can pick up your copy in the church lobby.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Reception | **Sun, Dec 10th** | **Fellowship Hall after both services** | *At this annual celebration, we like to share sweet and savory finger foods from our family's Christmas traditions to enjoy together. [Click here to sign up](#), or contact Julie Christensen: jfchristen56@hotmail.com.*

Taizé Service | **Wed, Dec 6th** | **Queen Anne United Methodist Church** | **1606 5th Ave W** | *Come be part of the quiet, praying, listening, singing, and candle lighting hosted the 1st Wed of every month by Bethany musicians, prayers, and members of "The Well." All are welcome to attend.*

Advent Season Events | *As we enter this Advent season, we invite you to join us in preparing for and awaiting the arrival of Emmanuel, God with Us. [Click here](#) to find ways to stay connected, serve, and celebrate together.*

REGULAR GATHERINGS

Coffee Mondays with Pastor Doug | Dec 4th, 3:30-6pm | Starbucks Queen Anne, 2135 Queen Anne Ave N | *Stop by to share any questions, joys, or concerns about your own life or Bethany's.*

Women's Bible Study | Tues, Dec 5th, 10:00am | 7 Howe & Online
Women of all ages and stages are invited to study the Bible with us. We are using the booklet, "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews," by Melissa Bane Sevier.

Youth Group | High School meets Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30pm / Middle School meets Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm | Youth House (11 Howe)
Come for some games, snacks, small groups, prayer and fun!