

OPEN THE
HEAVENS
AND COME
DOWN



Advent
AT BETHANY PRES

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude *No Wind at The Window* *Sylvia Oines &*
 arr. Sylvia Oines *Kate Barker (Cello)*
 Irish Melody (Text Reference - Hymn #101)

Welcome *Christy Kingsbury, Worship Leader*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

New Members Introduction *Matt Montagner*

Ben Barker, Sherrie Bennett, Katie Chan, Scott Gregory, Katie Horn, Ryan Horn, Paige & Tyler Sawers, Merrile Sing, Carroll Snow

Leader: We anoint you with oil, marking the anointed One's claim on your life. This ancient practice signifies what we know to be true:

People: **You belong to Christ. You belong to us. We belong to Christ together.**

Leader: Receive this cross around your neck as a reminder that—

People: **Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose to give you life.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Hymn #133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful (Verses 1, 3, & 4)*

Lighting the Advent Candle *Takasaki Family: Kevin, Sonia,
 Emmy, Nate & Noah*

People: **We are God's people.**

**We light this candle as a sign of God's love
that sets up camp among us,
tending the displaced and the wounded,
then sends us out to do the same.**

O come, Immanuel.

***Hymn** #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

(Children are excused to classes at this time, and middle schoolers to the Youth House)

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
With power and glory, come
Come, Savior, quickly come
Come, Savior, quickly come
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel
Come, Savior, quickly come

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.**

Choral Anthem *O Come, Emmanuel*
 by Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir &
Kate Barker (Cello)

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
O come, Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine Advent here
And drive away the shades of night
And pierce the clouds and bring us light
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel
O come, Desire of nations bind

All people in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with Heaven's peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ushers

Our Prayers to God

Danielle Merseles

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

To share your prayer request on the Virtual Prayer Wall, use your phone's camera or app to scan the QR code here. When the page comes up, tap on the box at bottom of screen that says, "Click here to join the conversation." Select "guest," enter your name or initials, and log in.

Scripture Reading Luke 3:2-9 (Pew Bible: NT, p. 52)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Prepare The Way of The Lord*

Jeff Van Duzer

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)

Song *God With Us* by Mercy Me

Who are we, that You would be mindful of us
What do You see, that's worth looking our way
We are free, in ways that we never should be
Sweet release from the grip of these chains
Like hinges straining from the weight
My heart no longer can keep from singing
All that is within me cries
"For You alone be glorified:" Emmanuel, God with us

*My heart sings a brand new song
The debt is paid, these chains are gone
Emmanuel, God with us*

Lord, You know our hearts don't deserve Your glory
Still You show a love we cannot afford

Like hinges straining from the weight
My heart no longer can keep from singing (*Chorus*)

Such a tiny offering compared to Calvary
Nevertheless, we lay it at Your feet (*2x, Chorus*)

***Song** *Even So Come* by Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates, & Jason Ingram

All of creation, all of the earth
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

*Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing
Even so come, Lord Jesus, come; Even so come, Lord Jesus, come*

There will be justice, all will be new
Your name forever, faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon (*Chorus*)

So we wait, we wait for You; God we wait, You're coming soon
So we wait, we wait for You; God we wait, You're coming soon
(*Chorus*)

Benediction

Jeff Van Duzer

Postlude *Fanfare from Water Music*
by G.F. Handel

Sylvia Oines

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

Preaching Today: *Jeff Van Duzer*

Leading Worship: *Christy Kingsbury*

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

Date: *December 10, 2023*

Cover: *Rich Erickson, "Sunset Park" Ballard*

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TODAY

Preaching today is Jeff Van Duzer. *Jeff is a long-time member who has been preaching regularly at Bethany for over forty years. He is currently exploring retirement and finding ways to spend his newfound spaciousness. Margie and he have two adult sons, two daughters-in-law, and three delightful grandchildren.*

Leading worship today is Christy Kingsbury. *Christy, her husband Brett, and daughters, Charlotte (16) and Beatrice (14) have happily attended Bethany for about 10 years. They love the welcoming and supportive community they have found here. In her spare time, Christy likes to travel, cycle (long distance, low speed), and garden.*

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.*

Advent Reception | Fellowship Hall after both services | *Join us for this annual celebration, we'll have sweet and savory finger foods from our families' Christmas traditions to enjoy together.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.*

December 24th Services | **Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:00am, Sanctuary Only** | *Childcare provided for ages 6 months thru 2 years.*

Christmas Eve Services

Family-Friendly Service | 4:00pm, Sanctuary & Online | *Childcare provided for ages 6 months thru 2 years. Overflow seating will be available in the Fellowship Hall.*

Candlelight Services | 7:00 & 9:00pm, Sanctuary & Online | *Please note, no childcare provided at these services.*

BPYG (Bethany Presbyterian Youth Group) Alumni Gathering | **Dec 17th, after second service until 1 pm | 11 Howe** | *Join us in connecting with other BPYG alumni of any age!*

Poinsettias For Sale | **Lobby after both services** | *If you didn't get a chance to pre-order poinsettias, we have some extras available for purchase in the lobby after worship. The flowers are especially beautiful this year, and make wonderful gifts in addition to decorations!*

Year-End Giving | *Thank you to all who gave so generously over this past year - your financial partnership is essential to making all our areas of ministry possible!*

December is always an important month for us, providing a "snowpack" of sorts to help us through some lower giving months later in winter and spring (our usual giving pattern at Bethany). With this in mind, we ask that you please remember Bethany in your year-end giving.

If you'd like to send a check to Bethany by mail, our mailing address is: 3 Howe St., Seattle, WA 98109. To give online, [click here](#) to visit our Giving page. Contact our Treasurer, Timothy Chang, with any questions: chang.h.timothy@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Books to Prisoners Drive | *One of our high school students is organizing a book drive for Books to Prisoners. For the next few weeks, we will be collecting books for this organization. Look for the box in the lobby through Dec 17th. Make sure to take a look at the organization's genre requests. Visit www.bookstoprisoners.net.*

NEWS & NOTES

Wednesday Night Dinner Giving Tree | *Thank you so much for your incredible response - all ornaments/gift requests have been claimed! 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.*

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.*

Online Devotionals | *We will be publishing our Bethany online devotional via email on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout Advent, focusing on the four words of Advent: Hope, Love, Joy, Peace. If you'd like to write one of the devotionals, please reach out to Marisa Gronholz at marisag@bethanypc.org. If you are not receiving Bethany online devotionals and would like to, [you can sign up here](#).*

REGULAR GATHERINGS

Coffee Mondays with Pastor Doug | **Dec 11th, 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.*