

OPEN THE  
HEAVENS  
AND COME  
DOWN



Advent  
AT BETHANY PRES



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

*Chancel Choir*

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

**Scripture Reading** Luke 1:46-56 (Pew Bible: NT, p. 49)

*Leader:* The Word of the Lord. *People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message**

*Alan Beasley*

**Hymn** #126 *Jesus, Jesus, O What A Wonderful Child*

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild  
New life, new hope the child will bring  
Listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory"  
Let the heavens ring

**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** *Come, Dearest Child*

*Chancel Choir*

*Music by Ralph Manuel*

*Lyrics by Johann Rist & Fred Pratt*

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light and usher in the morning  
You shepherds shrink not with affright  
But hear the angel's warning  
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be

The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making  
This night of wonder, night of joy  
Was born the Christ, our brother  
He comes, not mighty to destroy, to bid us love each other  
How could he quit his kingly state  
For such a world of greed and hate?  
What deep humiliation secured the world's salvation!  
Come, dearest child, into our hearts  
And leave your crib behind you  
Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find you  
To you be honor, thanks and praise  
For all your gifts this time of grace  
Come conquer and deliver this world, and us, forever  
Amen

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Ushers*

### **Our Prayers to God**

*Danielle Merseles*

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

**Sermon** *Joy Amidst Temptations to Despair*

*Doug Kelly*

Text: Isaiah 61:1-4 (Pew Bible: OT, p. 651)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### **The Sacrament of The 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** *Here I Am to Worship* by Tim Hughes

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness

Opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore You

Hope of a life spent with You

*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down*

*Here I am to say that You're my God*

*You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above

Humbly You came to the earth You created

All for love's sake became poor (*Chorus*)

I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon that cross (*Repeat, Chorus*)

**\*Song** *Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come* by Jered McKenna

Arise, shine, for your light has come

And the glory of God is on you

Arise, see when the earth grows dark

That the Lord will arise upon you; The Lord will arise upon you

*Nations will come to Your light, lift up your eyes and see*

*We'll gather together and come to You,*

*And Your love will be all that we know*

*Your love will be all that we know*

Arise, come to the open gates for the Father is welcoming you

Fear not, for the Lord brings peace

And redemption to all who believe

Redemption to all who believe (*Chorus*)

The sun will not shine 'cause You'll be all the light that we need

And violence will end; all the wars that we wage will cease

The sun will not shine 'cause You'll be all the light that we need

And violence will end; all the wars that we wage will cease

We will glorify Your name; we will glorify Your name (*Chorus*)

**Benediction**

*Doug Kelly*

**Postlude** *Puer Nobis* Arr. by David Cherwein

*Sylvia Oines*

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

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**Preaching Today:** *Senior Pastor, Doug Kelly*

**Leading Worship:** *Rev. Dr. Lynne Baab*

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

**Date:** *December 17, 2023*

**Cover:** *Rich Erickson, "Central Whidbey"*

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## TODAY

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**Preaching today is Senior Pastor, Doug Kelly, and leading worship is Rev. Dr. Lynne Baab.** *Lynne is a writer and adjunct professor. She writes Bethany's email devotionals on Tuesdays focused on prayer, and her latest publication is the audiobook of Sabbath Keeping. Lynne is married to Dave, a watercolor artist, and one of her greatest sources of smiles (in addition to Dave's art) is her nine-year-old granddaughter.*

### **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.*

**Youth Programming | 9:00am Service Only |** *When the children are dismissed after the Children's Message, the middle schoolers should exit out the back of the Sanctuary, out through the lobby, and walk to the Youth House together. Dave Westburg will lead the class.*

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

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# TODAY

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## **Isaiah 43:1 Support Group | 12:15pm–1:30pm | Parlor**

*This is a group for people who identify as LGBTQ+ and for those who want to support friends and family members who identify as LGBTQ+. The purpose of the group is support, not debate. We meet on the third Sunday of the month after second service.*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Advent Season Events** | *As we continue 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.*

**New Year's Eve Service | 10:00am, Sanctuary Only** | *Childcare provided for ages 6 months thru 2 years.*

**Save the Date: Prayer Retreat | Feb 10th, 9am-12:30pm** | **Fellowship Hall.** *Our theme this year is "Listening to God in Prayer." Registration will open in January.*

**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! 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.*

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## NEWS & NOTES

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**Wednesday Night Dinner Giving Tree** | *Just a quick reminder to please place your wrapped gift (with ornament attached) under the Giving Tree today so we can present these gifts to our WND community this week.*

**Pick Up Reception Serving Items** | *Thank you to everyone who brought treats to the reception last Sunday! We have a few serving items that got left behind - you can find them on the kitchen counter in the Fellowship Hall.*

**Childcare Helpers Needed for Christmas Eve** | *Please let us know if you can help during the 4pm Family Service (childcare provided for ages 6 mos thru 2 years). Contact Bianca: [biancaq@bethanypc.org](mailto:biancaq@bethanypc.org).*

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## REGULAR GATHERINGS

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**Coffee Mondays with Pastor Doug** | Dec 18th, 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 19th, 10:00am | 7 Howe & On-line

*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 and Middle School groups will resume the second week of January (HS on Tues., Jan. 9th, 7:00-8:30pm / MS on Thurs., Jan. 11th, 7:00-8:30pm in the Youth House/11 Howe).*