

*Joy*

**Bethel**  
**United Church of Christ**  
December 16, 2018



# The People of God Gather for Worship

## Third Sunday of Advent

Kindly turn off or silence all electronic devices

Please observe a time of silence during the prelude for reflection and preparation for worship

PRELUDE

*Angelus Ad Virginem*

Medieval Latin Carol  
Setting by Henry Kihlken

WELCOME, CELEBRATIONS, & CONCERNS<sup>‡</sup>

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INVITATION OF THE STEEPLE BELL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Based on Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness will dance, and the dry places will sing praises to God.

**When we see the glory of the Lord revealed, we will be strengthened and saved!**

God's peace opens our eyes. God's gift of hope opens our hearts.

**With joy, we will praise the promised Savior of the world!**

Let us – with joy – kindle the light of the Lord.

*Come to the Light*

Scottish Folk Melody



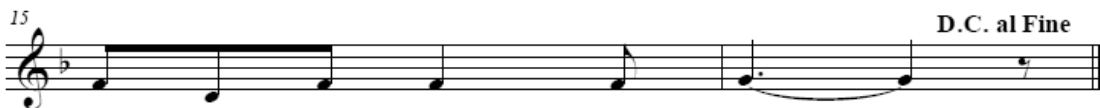
Come to the Light, the can - dle of joy ev - ery-one gath - er near. —  
Come to the Light, the can - dle of joy put a - way doubt and fear. —



Come to the Light and warm in its glow, Je - sus will soon be here. This is the time,  
Come to the Light, each bur - den re - lease, Je - sus will soon be here.



this is the place, wor - ship with joy - ful praise. Lift up your voice, sing and re - joice,



o - pen your heart to grace. —

## ANTHEM

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Gustav Holst

Arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

## \* HYMN NO. 142

*People, Look East*

BESANCON

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:1-4

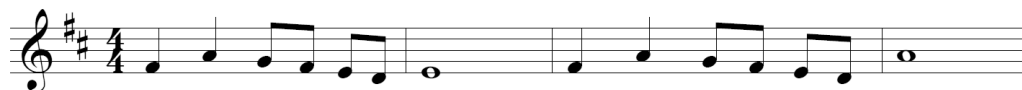
Pew Bible, page 584

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

*Take, O Take Me As I Am* (sung twice)

Text and Music by John Bell



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, **we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## RESPONSE NO. 119

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1)

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 42:5-9

Pew Bible, page 584

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all!

**And also with you!**

\* HYMN OF RESPONSE

*He Came Down*

Trad. Cameroon John Bell



He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy; he



came down that we may have joy; Hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

SERMON

WHO'S WAITING FOR WHOM?

INVITATION TO SHARE †

Offertory

*Meditation on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

Plainsong 13th century  
Setting by David Lasky

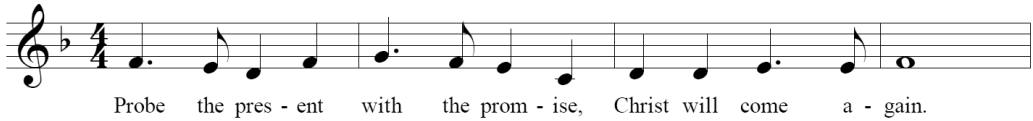
\* Response (see next page)

*Probe the Present through the Promise*

Trad. Welsh melody  
Words: Thomas H. Troeger

\* Dedication of our offering

## Probe the Present through the Promise



### PRAYER OF PETITION AND THANKSGIVING

#### 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\* HYMN NO. 150

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (vs. 1 and 2)

MENDELSSOHN

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Traditional Basque Carol  
Arr. by Anna Laura Page

\* Indicates those who are able please stand

✚ Please fill out the pew pad. In order that we may best serve your spiritual needs, please use the prayer request cards in the pew rack and place them in the offering

**Bold** Indicates congregational response

Large print bulletins are available

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

In the spirit of Christian love, remember these people and their families  
in your thoughts and prayers – not only today, but throughout the coming week.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SUBMITTED BY</u>
November 25	Debbie Farbrother.....	Nancy Loudin
	Cody Simpson.....	Denise Davis
	Lisa Wolff.....	Jennifer Heimerdinger & Linda Wolff
December 2	Dean Amrhein.....	Susie Amrhein
	Carole Baker.....	Bonnie Mitchell
	Ron Herrst.....	Carol Colby
	Mike Miller.....	Nancy Loudin
	Liam Riley.....	Karen Weidmayer
	Will Riley.....	Karen Weidmayer
	Turner Russell.....	Michelle Roberts
	Joe Turk.....	Nancy Loudin
	Family of Gerry Zapolnik.....	Linda Perkins
December 9	Family of Kevin Bechler.....	Scott Diuble
	Glenda Capps.....	Emily St. Charles
	Clock Getty Family.....	Sandy DeRossett
	Diane Jordan.....	Emily St. Charles
	Jeannette McDonald.....	Cathy Moore
	Family of Evie Seegert.....	Pastor Bucholtz
Chuck Varney.....	Nancy Loudin	
December 16	Family of Gail Davis Barnes.....	Mary Sue Moore
	Sawyer Featherstone.....	Sue Mann
	Sally Lewis.....	Linda Wolff
	Friends of Natalie Matovinovic.....	Mary Sue Moore
	Yonnie Maziarz.....	Emily St. Charles
	Mac and Sharon McMurray.....	Emily St. Charles
	Officer Michael Smith.....	Tim Seeger

### Those Serving Our Country

Sept. 25, 2010	Gy-Sgt. Evan Wahl, U.S. Marines.....	Lyle Wahl
Jan. 13, 2013	Zachary Steelman, 101 <sup>st</sup> Airborne, U.S. Army	
April 3, 2016	Kyle Braun, U.S. Marines.....	Harvey & Marcella Luckhardt
Oct. 8, 2017	Henry Arbogast, U.S. Navy.....	Darlene Kuebler
Sept. 2, 2018	Willie Day, U.S. Navy Seals.....	Jody Munson

## EVENTS TODAY

- 9:30 a.m.** Worship  
**10:30 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.** Sunday School  
**10:30 a.m.** German cookie sales  
**5:00 p.m.** Sunday School Christmas Program. Cookie reception to follow.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mon., Dec. 17                   **6:00 p.m.** Children's Choir rehearsal  
   **6:30 p.m.** Choir & Ensembles Potluck  
   **7:30 p.m.** Handbell and Senior Choir rehearsals  
Tues., Dec. 18 **9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Bethel Quilters  
Sun., Dec. 23                   **9:30 a.m.** Worship  
   **No** Sunday School  
   **No** Youth Ministry meeting  
Mon., Dec. 24               **5:00 & 7:30 p.m.** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
Tues., Dec. 25  
   **5:00 p.m.** Vespers at First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor  
Wed., Dec. 26                   Reineck Fellowship Hall is reserved  
Thurs., Dec. 27               **8:00-10:00 p.m.** Ugly Sweater party (7th grade - college students)  
   **10:00 p.m.** Youth Lock-in  
Fri., Dec. 28                   **8:00 a.m.** Youth Lock-in pick up  
Sun., Dec. 30                   **9:30 a.m.** Worship  
   **No** Sunday School  
Mon., Dec. 31                   New Year's Eve  
   **No** Choir rehearsals  
Tues., Jan. 1                   New Year's Day  
Fri., Jan. 4 & 5 **8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.** Bethel Quilters' Retreat

## IN THE COMMUNITY

- Thurs., Dec. 20               **10:30 a.m.** Ecumenical Bible Study at Emanuel UCC  
   **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Live Nativity at Emanuel UCC  
Fri., Dec. 21                   **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Live Nativity at Emanuel UCC

Come celebrate the joy of Christmas this year  
at Bethel Church

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion  
5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Please bring a friend!





## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Minister: Rev. David Bucholtz  
Music Director: Mary Sue Moore  
Greeters: John, Lori, and Hailey Tursak  
Ushers: Duane Kuebler, Klara Kuebler, Ryan Mann, Tom Mann, and  
Paula Wagenschutz  
Acolyte: Elizabeth Diuble  
Advent Wreath: PreK-Kindergarten Sunday School Class  
Lay Reader: Linda Perkins  
Child Care: Renee St. Charles and Mallory Klein



## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Sunday, December 16th at 5:00 p.m.

**Live from Bethel .... It's Christmas Night!!**

Following the program, join us for a cookie reception  
in the Reineck Fellowship Hall