



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 24, 2018

# The People of God Gather for Worship and Sacrament

## The Birth of our Lord

Kindly turn off or silence all electronic devices

PRELUDE *Angels from the Realms of Glory* H. Smart/Setting B. Price

WELCOME and PRAYER OF INVOCATION †

INVITATION OF THE STEEPLE BELL

A LITANY OF LIGHT

*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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

\* HYMN NO. 148 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vs. 1, 2, and 4) ADESTE FIDELES

ANTHEM *Fum, Fum, Fum* Traditional Catalonian Carol  
Arr. by John D. Miller

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

HYMN NO. 155 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs. 1) GLORIA

THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:1-14 (KJV) Pg. 832, Pew Bible

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenus was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she

brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

HYMN NO. 151

*The First Noel* (vs. 1)

THE FIRST NOEL

CALL TO CONFESSION

John 1:1-4, 10-11

Page 862, Pew Bible

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. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

PRAYER OF CORPORATE CONFESSION

**Merciful God, you came into the world, yet the world did not receive You. You came to Your own, and your own did not welcome you. Yet, you offer perfect forgiveness and abundant life to all who acknowledge their need of you. Cleanse my heart tonight, Lord Jesus, so that I may welcome you as I long to – certain that I am also welcomed by You.**

PRAYER OF PERSONAL CONFESSION (in silence)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

John 1:12-14, 16-18

Page 862, Pew Bible

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

\* SHARING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS – THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\* RESPONSE NO. 150

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

MENDELSSOHN

**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 new born king!**

SERMON

BECOMING

INVITATION TO SHARE

Offertory

*What a Beautiful Name*

B. Fielding & B. Ligertwood

Arr. by Joseph M. Martin

\* Response No. 167 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (refrain only)

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

HYMN NO. 144

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs. 1)

ST. LOUIS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*This evening we will receive the Lord's Supper in our pews. After being served, please hold the bread and then the cup so that we may consume the elements as individual members of Christ's church united as one body. Please note – the communion cup contains wine except for the inner ring of grape juice; the bread is gluten free.*

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Communion Prayer and 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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

## SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

Please use caution while holding the lighted candle. When all candles are lit, join in singing *Silent Night, Holy Night* (Please remain seated). Extinguish your candle when we've finished singing and the lights in the sanctuary come up.

HYMN

*Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT

**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!**

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schlaft, einsam wacht.  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar, Holder Knabe im lockigen Harr  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!**

\* HYMN NO. 143

*Joy to the World* (vs. 1)

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart  
prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing ...**

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

*The Snow Lay on the Ground*

Trad. Christmas Carol  
Arr. by J. Denton

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\* 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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## PARTICIPANTS

Minister: Reverend David Bucholtz  
Music Director/Organist: Mary Sue Moore  
Greeters: John and Sarah Heuser, Ben, Jordan & Rachel  
Ushers: David Seeger, Mike Meranuck, Diane Seeger, Tim Seeger, and  
Jeff Shankland  
Acolyte: Ryan Amrhein  
Litany of Light: Kindergarten-2nd grade Sunday School class;  
Jennifer Bucholtz, horn  
Anthem: Youth Choir Plus, directed by Julie Roberts  
Offertory: Praise Choir, directed by Julie Roberts;  
Percussion, Amanda Eisenmann  
American Sign Language  
Interpreter: Lillian Diuble



### *Christmas Poinsettias*



*Ray and Ava Goff*  
*The Horodeczny Family*  
*Diane Kring*  
*Stan & Patty Lambarth*  
*The Moore Family*



*Mariel Peck - In memory of husband Doug Peck and  
son-in-law Mark Mullen*  
*Betty Schneider*  
*The Roberts Family*  
*The St. Charles Family - In memory of Tom St. Charles  
celebrating his first Christmas in Heaven.*  
*Lyle Wahl Family - In memory of Wilma & Rudy Wahl*

# *The Peace Light of Bethlehem*

From the eternal flame in the Nativity Grotto, Bethlehem, Israel

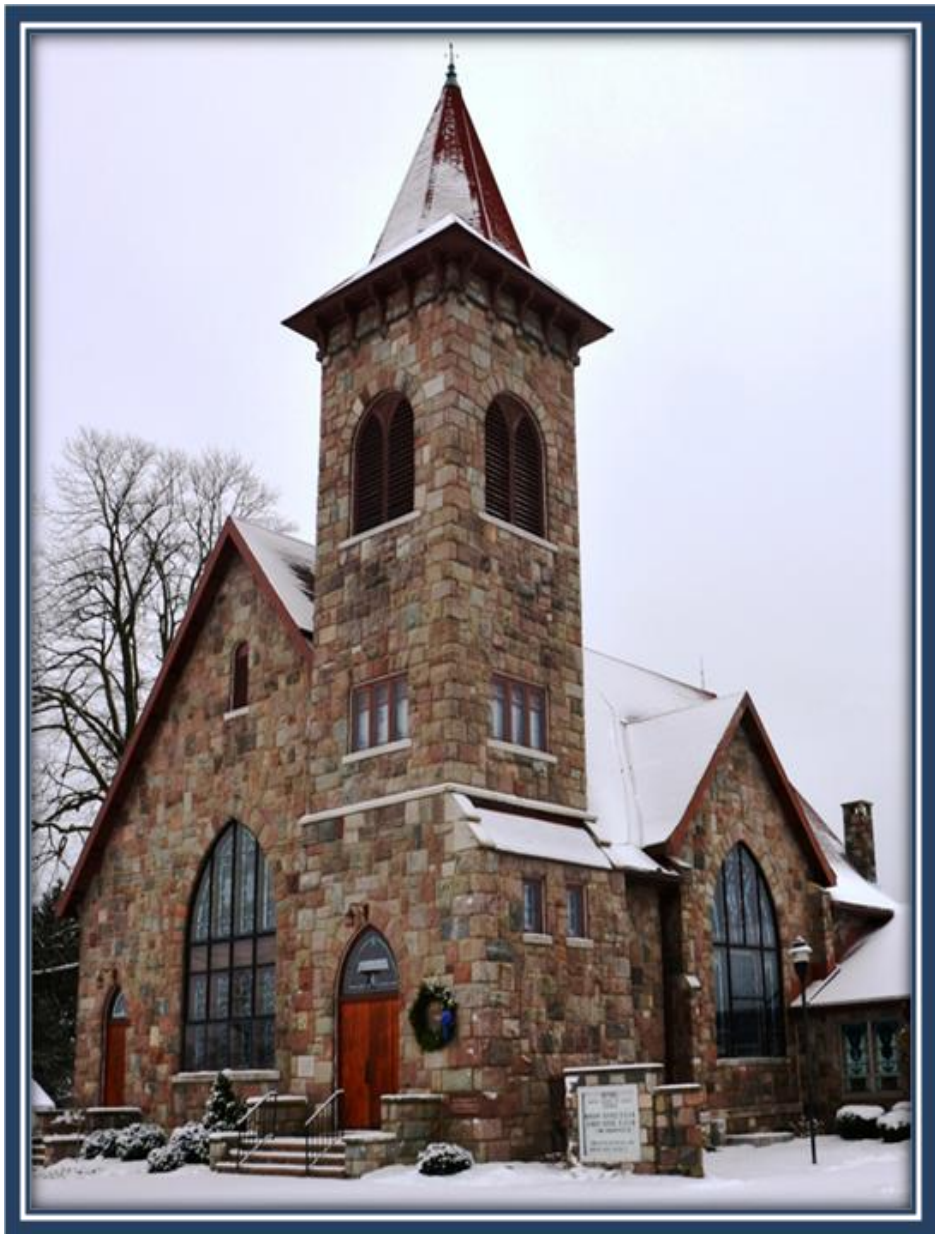
For the past 30 years a Scout from Upper Austria fetches the light from the nativity grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is carried in two miners lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv Israel to Vienna Austria where it is distributed at a Service of dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries. Austrian Airlines then flies the lamps containing the Peace Light from Bethlehem to New York City.

On November 20th, 11yr old Niklas Lehner, from Vorchdorf Austria, traveled to the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem where Jesus was born where he received the light of peace from the eternal candles within the grotto. The Peace Light will arrived by Austrian Airlines on December 1 at JFK International Airport, Jamaica, NY. A ceremony for the Peace light distribution was held at the Our Lady of the Skies Chapel. From there, several peace light ambassadors, started on their journeys. Our ambassador arrived in Ann Arbor on December 4th.

The Southern Shores Field Service Council of the Boy Scouts of America is honored to carry on as ambassadors for the Peace Light. Various Scout units across our council have received the light and have brought the light of peace to you.







*Merry Christmas from Bethel Church*