



Bethel United Church of Christ  
Sunday School Christmas Program  
and Advent Worship

December 15, 2019

# The People of God Gather for Worship

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

Kindly turn off or silence all electronic devices

PRELUDE

WELCOME, CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INVITATION OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT                    *O Little Town of Bethlehem/O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Redner/arr. Olson and Wade/arr. McLean

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us – in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations or our memories push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

*Star on High*

Words, Alison Robison  
Tune, Dona Nobis Pacem

*Star on high, bleak below, shepherds uncertain as wise men across the desert seek a Savior born.  
No room thus laid in a manger as angels and splendor stunned the heavens above.  
Plainly, this infant was sent to save us. Love adorned. Christmas morn. Alleluia!*

**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. Amen.**

\* HYMN NO. 155

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
(verse 1, children; **verses 2-4, congregation**)

GLORIA

ANTHEM

*Hope is Here (Joy to the Word)*

D. Macaulay and K. E. Smith

CRADLE ROLL

Lola Finkbeiner

Luke Perkins

Ross Finkbeiner

Elliot Seeger

And any children 3-years and under who are in attendance

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 146:5-10 (Good News Translation)

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob to help them and who depend on the LORD their God, the Creator of heaven, earth, and sea, and all that is in them. He always keeps his promises; he judges in favour of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free and gives sight to the blind. He lifts those who have fallen; he loves his righteous people. He protects the strangers who live in our land; he helps widows and orphans, but takes the wicked to their ruin. The LORD is king for ever. Your God, O Zion, will reign for all time. Praise the LORD!

VIDEO

AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:46b-55 (The Message)

And Mary said, I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened— I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him. He bared his arm and showed his strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts. He knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. He embraced his chosen child, Israel; he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what he promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

REFLECTION

LOOK WHO'S LAUGHING NOW!

HYMN NO. 153

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (vs. 1, 2, and 4)

CAROL

VIDEO

CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO KIDS

INVITATION TO SHARE †

Offertory

*Believe - from "The Polar Express"*

G. Ballard and A. Silverstein

\* Response

*Give Thanks*

Henry Smith

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich"  
because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

PRAYER OF PETITION AND THANKSGIVING

Jesus Christ, born in a stable, be with the poor and homeless this Christmas time.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

*A time for silent prayer and reflection*

Jesus Christ, born of Mary, be with young mothers across the world this Christmas time.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

*A time for silent prayer and reflection*

Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds, be with all who have to work this Christmas, and those who long to work.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

*A time for silent prayer and reflection*

Jesus Christ, who became a refugee, be with those who fear for their lives, and those who have left homes and families this Christmas.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light, as even now we pray by saying:**

**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. 144

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
(verse 1, children; **verses 2-4, congregation**)

ST. LOUIS

LIVE NATIVITY

ANTHEM

*What A Glorious Night*

Sidewalk Prophets

## BENEDICTION

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice. For God has created you with the capacity for joy.

**We will find what makes us joyful, and make that our gift to the world.**

Trust in God's good will for all of creation and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

**We will welcome new possibilities in our lives. We will offer ourselves to God's goodness. We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.**

## POSTLUDE

*The First Noel*

Arr. by James Michael Stevens

\* 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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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Minister: Rev. David Bucholtz

Music Director: Mary Sue Moore

Greeters: John and Lori Tursak

Ushers: 2020 Confirmands, Larry Egeler, Larry Aiken, Patsy Aiken, Fred Jahnke and Judy Jahnke

Pianist: Judy Fielgel

Introit: Ryan Amrhein

Advent Candles: Elizabeth Diuble and Sydney Jedele; Alison Robison, soloist; Susie Amrhein, flute

Acolyte: Mallory Klein

Cradle Roll: Kristi Campbell, Jill Corwin, and Stacey Neigebauer

Scripture Readers: Jaccari James and Paige Shankland; Lisa Novess

Prayer Assistants: Karsyn Klein and Jack Austin

Benediction: Isabel Bucholtz and Owen St. Charles

Child Care: The room is available but no volunteers are staffed

Flowers: The piano arrangement was made by Peyton, Mallory, and Karsyn Klein in memory of Grandma Linda



Preschool Teachers: Debbie Guenther and James Meyer

Daniel Gawura  
Reid Novess  
Andrew Perkins

Blake Sheets  
Sonorra Steele

Kindergarten and First Grade Teacher: Susan Luckhardt

Kaitlyn Feldkamp  
Haydyn Girbach  
Kendall Brooks  
Madelyn Diuble

Stewart Hieber  
Emma Weidmayer  
Barrett Novess

Second and Third Grade Teachers: Amanda Eisenmann and Lisa Novess

Cassidy Hieber  
Jaccari James  
Drew Sheets

Dillon Neigebauer  
Emma Seeger

Fourth and Fifth Grade Teacher: Mark Austin

Jack Austin  
Owen St. Charles  
Isabel Bucholtz  
Ryan Feldkamp

Amanda Hieber  
Karsyn Klein  
Calli Kruger  
Alena Weidmayer

Sixth and Seventh Grade Teachers: Bonnie Mitchell and Judy Laberde

Ashton Drake  
Valorie Hieber

Siera Jedele  
Evelyn St. Charles

Eighth Grade Teacher: Jean Martin

Elizabeth Diuble  
Sydney Jedele  
Mallory Klein  
Peyton Klein

Emma Shankland  
Paige Shankland  
Serenity Spinks

## BETHEL PRAYER REQUESTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SUBMITTED BY</u>
November 24	Paul Bigelow.....	Bonnie Mitchell
	Madison Carpenter.....	Karen Braun Miller
	Mary Jo Olmstead .....	Mary Beth Baker
December 1	Sue Brooks.....	Michelle Jedele
	Michael Dorosh .....	Cathy Moore
	Family of JoAnn Mitchell .....	Bonnie Mitchell
	Joyce Paulsen.....	Karen Miller
	Julie Stanley .....	Julie Roberts
	Nicole Tuttle .....	Michelle Jedele
December 8	Sue Ellen (Vogel) Andrews.....	Betty Schneider
	Marie Bauer .....	Pastor Bucholtz
	Dianne Bowman.....	Duane Kuebler
	Keith Eisenmann.....	Amanda Eisenmann
	Travis Farr .....	Katie Farr
	Charlie Gale.....	Michelle Jedele
	Jen Gilmore .....	Nancy Loudin
	Family of Shirley Gilmore.....	Nancy Loudin
	Eric Gregerson .....	Jody Munson
	Michael Hamm .....	Jody Munson
	David Hoeft .....	Pastor Bucholtz
	Irene Jacob .....	Pastor Bucholtz
	Family of Ken "Spike" Koch.....	Mary Sue Moore
	Roman Schlabach .....	
Karen Strock .....	Lori Lobbestael	
Virginia Vogel .....	Betty Schneider	
December 15	Family of Joyce Braun .....	Family
	Debbie Farmbrother.....	Nancy Loudin
	Judy Jedele .....	
	Family of Roger Luckhardt.....	Susan Luckhardt
	Bev Merz.....	Nancy Loudin
	Roy Sanderson .....	Carol Colby
	Jacob Schaible .....	Bev Merz

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

09/25/2010	GySgt. Evan Wahl, U.S. Marines .....	Lyle Wahl
01/13/2013	Zachary Steelman, 101 <sup>st</sup> Airborne, U.S. Army .....	
04/03/2016	Kyle Braun, U.S. Marines.....	Harvey & Marcella Luckhardt
10/08/2017	Henry Arbogast, U.S. Navy Seals .....	Darlene Kuebler
09/02/2018	Willie Day, U.S. Navy Seals .....	Jody Munson
02/24/2019	Bruce Walrad, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers .....	Betty Jean Harper
08/18/2019	MSG Shaw, Nikki, Afghanistan, US Army .....	Nancy Loudin

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Sunday School Coordinator: Cat Meyer

Program Coordinator: Linda Perkins, Susan Luckhardt

Sunday School accompanist: Judy Fiegel

Costume and set design: Patty & Stan Lambarth, Dean & Susie Amrhein

Costume donations: Judy Laberdee

Sunday School music directors: Jackie Martin, Linda Perkins, Angela Fiegel

Filming and Videographer: Angela Fiegel

Filming Assistance: Jessie Mann, Serenity Spinks, and parents

Sound Board: Jackie Martin

Acting Coach: Alison Robison

Food Coordinators: Cat and James Meyer

Baby Jesus: Jacob Feldkamp

God: Ava Goff

Stand in Angel: Amanda Eisenmann

Stand in Sheep: Paula Wagenschutz

Pastor Bucholtz

2020 Confirmation Class

Board of Christian Education

Bethel Families

Sunday School teachers & assistants

All our Sunday School children!



## EVENTS TODAY

**9:30 a.m.** Children's Christmas program and worship. Cookie reception to follow.

**No** Sunday School or Confirmation Class

**11:30 a.m.** Praise Choir rehearsal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Dec. 16 **7:00 p.m.** Christmas Cantata rehearsal  
Sun., Dec. 22 **8:15 a.m.** Christmas Cantata rehearsal  
**9:30 a.m.** Christmas Cantata  
**10:30-11:45 a.m.** Sunday School  
Mon., Dec. 23 **6:30 p.m.** Choirs Potluck  
**7:30 p.m.** Handbell & Senior Choir rehearsals  
Tues., Dec. 24 **5:00 p.m.** Vespers at First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor  
**5:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Candlelight service  
**7:30 p.m.** Christmas Eve Candlelight service  
Wed., Dec. 25 Christmas Day - Merry Christmas!  
Thurs., Dec. 26 Reineck Fellowship Hall is reserved  
Fri., Dec. 27 **8:00 p.m.** Ugly Sweater Party/Youth Lock-in  
Sat., Dec. 28 **8:00 a.m.** Pick up time for Youth Lock-in  
Sun., Dec. 29 **9:30 a.m.** Worship  
**No** Sunday School or Confirmation Class  
Tues., Dec. 31 New Year's Eve  
Wed., Jan. 1 New Year's Day  
Sun., Jan. 5 **9:30 a.m.** Worship with Holy Communion  
**No** Sunday School or Confirmation Class

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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Bethel United Church of Christ  
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Rev. David Bucholtz, Pastor  
Phone: (734) 323-4129  
Email: [bucholtz@umich.edu](mailto:bucholtz@umich.edu)

# *The Legend of the Candy Cane*

*Look at the candy cane.  
What do you see?  
Stripes that are red like  
the blood shed for me.  
White is for my Savior  
who's sinless and pure.  
"J" is for Jesus, my Lord,  
that's for sure!  
Turn it around and  
a staff you will see.  
Jesus, my sheperd,  
was born for me!*

*author unknown*



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!

