

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
DECEMBER 8, 2024 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

(Please stand.)

Song “Where the Promise Shines”

*Where the world is waiting for an unknown day,
where a voice, forgotten, cries “Prepare the way!”
Show us in a manger our redemption’s sign;
bring us to a morning where the promise shines.*

*Lead us on, lead us on
to a morning where the promise shines.
Lead us on, lead us on
to a morning where the promise shines*

Litany

P Advent is a time for God’s people to reawaken their longings.
C **Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**
P Where there is division, we long for unity.
C **Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**
P Where there is hostility, we long for resolution.
C **Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**
P Where there is separation, we long for reunion.
C **Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

(candlelighting)

P Today we light two candles. The first candle represents the everlasting hope that has touched our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. In a world of division, brokenness and uncertainty, the second candle summons our hearts to the One we call Prince of Peace.

As the light shines, may we embrace and extend the peace of Christ in all that we do and say.

Song “*Where the Promise Shines*” (continued)

*Lead us On, lead us on
to a morning where the promise shines.
Lead us on, lead us on
to a morning where the promise shines.
To a morning where the promise shines.*

Prayer

A Gracious God, you are the Prince of Peace who lives and reigns forever. As we journey together, we pray you would still our fears, heal our wounds and fill our spirits. Shine forth your perfect peace in our unsettled world throughout this Advent season.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song “*We Are Waiting for Jesus*”

*We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Sun of justice, shine upon us;
we are trusting in your promise.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.*

*We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.*

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Advent Gathering Song

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

James J. Chepponis

Gently
mp

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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Prayer of the Day

- P** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

- A** The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Luke 1:68-79

- A Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.
- C **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**
- A Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
- C **to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**
- A This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- C **free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
- A And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
- C **to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**
- A In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- C **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation "Come and Enter In"

*Enter in the story, long ago foretold.
Unto us a child is born to save.
Hope amidst the longing,
love that thrills the soul,*

*joy to the Earth,
and peace that calms the storm.
Come and enter in.*

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

Sermon **Rev. Elaina Salmon**

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*”

*Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

*Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.*

*Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.*

*Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.*

Prayers of the People

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

(a moment of silence)

Song "Watch, O Watch"

*Watch, O watch. The dawn will come.
Be still, my soul and pray. (repeated)*

A Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. We call to mind those for whom we pray *(a moment of silence)*. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**

Song *“Watch, O Watch”*

*Watch, O watch. The dawn will come.
Be still, my soul and pray. (repeated)*

Sharing of Christ's Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

(Please be seated.)

THE MEAL

Invitation to the Offering

P In faith and hope, let us offer our gifts so that even as we await Christ’s coming, we may be a part of what God is doing in the world right now.

Offering

(Our offering is an act of worship and thanksgiving for all God has first given us. Our gifts support the mission of the church to “nurture with love and serve with hope.”)

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song *“Bread of Life”*

*Refrain
Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:*

*feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.*

*Be with your people, Lord,
send us your saving Word:
Jesus Christ, light of gladness,
come among us now. Refrain*

*Bring to our world of fear
the truth we long to hear:
Jesus Christ, hope of ages,
come to save us now. Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

- A Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.
- In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
(Sung response)

C ***Come, come Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel. (repeated)***

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
(Sung response)

C ***Come, come Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel. (repeated)***

P All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C **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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”

*Lamb of God, you take away our sin
Lord, have mercy on us,
and may your peace be with us.
Lamb of God, you take away our sin.*

“Bread for the World”

*Refrain:
Bread for the world
A world of hunger
Wine for all peoples
People who thirst
May we who eat
Be bread for others
May we who drink
Pour out our love*

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life,
broken to reach and heal the wounds
Of human pain.
Where we divide your people,
you are waiting there
on bended knee
to wash our feet with endless care Refrain*

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the wine of peace,
poured into hearts once broken
And where dryness sleeps.
Where we are tired and weary,
you are waiting there
to be the way which beckons us
beyond despair Refrain*

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you call us to your feast,
at which the rich and pow'rful
have become the least
Where we survive on
others human greed,
you walk among us
begging for your ev'ry need. Refrain*

(Please stand.)

Communion Blessing

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
bless and keep you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sending Song “*All Earth is Hopeful*”

*All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see*

how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

*People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.*

*Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!*

*We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he his present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.*

Dismissal

P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.
C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

MariLynn Bergmark	Nancy Iwan	Charlotte Pohlman
Sharon Bolerjack	Monica Johnson	Misty Pounder
Hazel Brant	Pat Johnson	Brilee Robbins
Scott Browne	Caty K	Ken Rose
Anthony Campagna	Zeplyn Killmer	Frank Roy
Gary Cobbett	Lenny Kobilca	Ben Sabourin
Sidney Colburn	Carrie Koon	George Scheel
Jim Connelly	Rev. John Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Beau Dowling	Nancy Lang	Tim Schroeder
Maggie Driscoll	Sue Lucheon	Virginia Schroeder
Finley Engnell	Scott Lundgren	Sharon Skopec
Bob Erickson	Dede Machowski	Gene Sobba
Elwood Faulhaber	Hanna Mau	Gary Sperka
Judy Faulhaber	Jim McKeever	Burt Swartz
Abby Galvin	Ruth Ann Miller	Dom Thielmann
David Gilchrist	Omni Rook Myers	Kayley Koter Taddeo
Chriss Hassel	Linda Nelson	Chuck Vlcek
Marie Heeren	Jane Nilles	Kyle Williams
Mike Hoffman	Dave Nommenson	
Bob Hoster	Dick Pierce	

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott, Chad Peters, Mitch Pohlman and all others serving our country and their families.

For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Glenda Anderson

ACOLYTES — AJ Guglielmucci and Lakin Guglielmucci

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Sunday, December 15, we'll have the Children's Christmas Pageant during worship! This year, we'll hear from "The Biggest Fan of Jesus" (aka John the Baptist). Congregation members are invited and encouraged to wear festive attire!

POSTCARD INVITES

"Christmas at Bethany" postcards are available for you to take and share with friends and neighbors. The Service Longest Night is especially for those who are grieving or who have had a challenging year. This year, that service will take place on Thursday, December 19 at 7pm. Take a postcard and hand it to a neighbor, stick in a Christmas card, or offer to pick up your friend and bring them with you to church.

FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS

We've gotten a start on making our Advent Friendship bracelets, inspired by Taylor Swift and her Swifties! With the Advent words—hope, peace, joy and love—sharing a bracelet can be a quick way to give a gift and make a connection with your neighbor this holiday season. Join us again on Wednesday, December 11 at 7pm for more bracelet making or take a kit home with you. And as you go through your weeks, wear the bracelets and give them away.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

If you would like to order a poinsettia, order forms are available. Kindly turn in your orders to the church office by December 11th. Please call the office at 630-257-7953 or email bethanylmt@aol.com.

SWEDISH POTATO SAUSAGE

Bethany's Swedish Potato Sausage Sale is happening on Sunday, December 22. We'll need all our helpers for peeling, chopping, mixing, filling, and selling the Swedish potato sausage. To place an order, submit the enclosed form by December 15. Sausage can be picked up on December 22 between 10AM-12PM.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Pirates of the Canal, Anytime Fitness, Jeff & Tammy Bertucci, Theresa Graham, Barbara Osborne and David & Lori Atherton.

A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND was given in memory of the 5th anniversary of Bill Laasch's death by his wife, Pam.

A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND was given in memory of John Jaje, on the anniversary of his birth, Dec. 9 by Kelly Jaje.

A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND was given in memory of Rita Ludwig by Lois Kazich.

A DONATION THE OPEN PANTRY was given in memory of Leo Wojciechowski by Lori Olkiewicz.

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