

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 East Hampden Avenue | Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113 | www.Bethany-Denver.org | 303.758.2820

Keep Watch, Take Heart

Advent 1: Prepare Your Heart



Bethany Creative @ 10:00am

November 28, 2021

SEVEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BETHANY'S **WORSHIP**

- ◆ **Welcome to Bethany!** All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good! If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, **please stop by the Newcomer Nook** in the Fellowship Hall after services.
- ◆ **The 2 Worship Services:** Bethany has two distinct services: the 8:30am Traditional service is a worship gathering utilizing the full Lutheran Liturgy. The 10:00am Creative service takes the day's scripture themes and explores them in new and creative ways.
- ◆ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so. In accordance with Arapahoe County requirements, masks are required in the building.
- ◆ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ◆ **Staffed Nursery:** We love having children in worship! However, if you would like directions to our nursery, please speak with an usher.
- ◆ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ◆ **Connection Card:** We want to know we are in worship together! Please take a moment to fill out our Digital Connection Card, simply scan the QR code below with your phone's camera to open the form.



SPECIAL NOTE:

Throughout this bulletin today you'll find + KIDS NOTES +
These Notes will invite you to interact with worship in new ways!
Even though we call them "Kids Notes" all are invited to join in!

✠ Gathering ✠

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Hal Hopson

+KIDS NOTES+

Today is the First Sunday in Advent, a time when we prepare
and keep watch as Christmas gets closer.
Can you find 3 things around the church that weren't here last week?

ENTRY OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Cantor sings "Wait For The Lord" one time through,
Then all sing "Wait for the Lord" as the first Advent Candle Enters.*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and then a dotted quarter note on C5. The bass staff provides accompaniment with chords and single notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The musical notation continues with the same treble and bass staves. The treble staff melody continues with notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff accompaniment follows. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a sharp sign.

Candle is placed in Advent Wreath

ADVENT LITANY

Through difficult times and long nights

We wait for the promised Messiah to appear.

We gather by the light of a candle

Waiting for The Light of The World to emerge.

We confess that we have not always followed The Light

We have been led astray by other messages and pursuits

But God is gracious and forgiving

And calls us again to follow Jesus.

Prepare Your Hearts, people of God.

We prepare them to receive Jesus into our lives again

Prepare Your Hearts, people of God.

We prepare them to welcome Jesus, the Savior of the World

Prepare Your Hearts as we wait.

We wait for the promised Messiah to appear. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Hymn #257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

GREETING

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

And also with you.

+KIDS NOTES+

We call this “the Greeting” but it’s actually a prayer. We are asking for God to be present in one another’s lives. When are you aware that God is with you?

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever **Amen.**

WELCOME

ANTHEM

I Will Lift Mine Eyes to the Hills

Cathy Moglebust

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

✠ Word ✠

LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+KIDS NOTES+

This first reading from Jeremiah is a hopeful message to the Israelites as they were in exile. What gives you hope?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

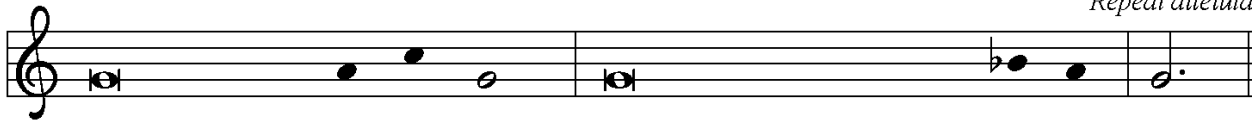


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Nate Preisinger

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you**

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

✠ Meal ✠

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

+ KIDS NOTES+

At this point in the Communion Liturgy, the Pastor retells the story of the first time Jesus shared communion with his friends.

Who are your close friends?

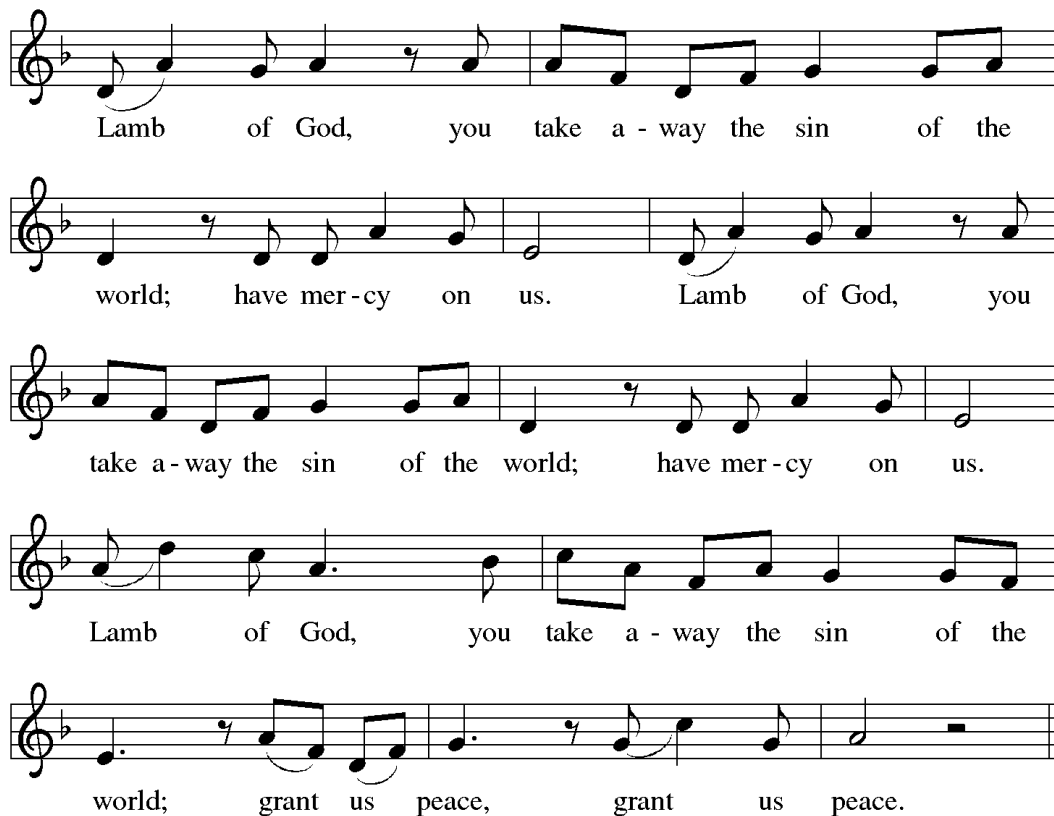
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

+KIDS NOTES+

Jesus taught this prayer to his disciples 2000 years ago! Since then billions of people from around the world have said this prayer. It's a special tradition!
What is a tradition that your family has?

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

Wm. Walker, arr. Cathy Moklebust

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

✘ Offering ✘

ABUNDANTLY BETHANY

Pastor Nate Preisinger

To fill out your digital connection card, go here www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

OFFERING

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- (1) On our **website**, find the giving button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at Bethany-Denver.org,
- (2) Through the [Bethany Connect App/Realm](#)
- (3) Use a card at the kiosk in the Welcome Center
- (4) **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)

OFFERING ANTHEM

A Carol for Advent

Gilbert M. Martin

Chancel Choir, dir. James Kim

*The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes, alleluia!
Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky, alleluia!
O, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race,
the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see His face.
The king shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings,
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray, come quickly, King of kings.*

+KIDS NOTES+

We generously share our offerings because God generously gives to us.

The Chancel Choir also shares their music talent at this time.

Name 3 things that God has given to you that you could share with others:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

BENEDICTION

✠ Sending ✠

SENDING HYMN

People, Look East

Hymn #248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

+KIDS NOTES+

Pay careful attention to the lyrics in this sending hymn,
what do you notice in the song that we talked about in church today?

DISMISSAL

Go in Peace, prepare your heart. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Recessional on “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”

Rick Seaton

SEVEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BETHANY'S **NEWS & EVENTS**

- ◆ **Community Time Today:** Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Starting at 11:00am we invite you to help us then decorate the inside and outside of the church for the Christmas season. Also stop by the Fellowship Hall for leftover pie from our Thanksgiving Eve Pie Fest!
- ◆ **ELCA Good Gifts:** Buy an ornament to support a variety of ELCA world projects including hunger, clean water and education. Gifts can be purchased from November 28 through December.
- ◆ **LFS Angel Tree:** Sign up at the Welcome Center to buy gifts for the Lutheran Family Services clients who would go without this Christmas. We still need about 20 more people to sign up. All gifts are due back at church by Sunday, December 5.
- ◆ **Advent Devotional:** Pastor Nate has created a Daily Devotional booklet to guide families and individuals through the season of Advent. Stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a copy.
- ◆ **Canto Deo Service of Lessons & Carols:** Today at 3:00pm. The Advent Service of Lessons and Carols features liturgy and carols from diverse traditions, composers, and voices in a contemplative and quiet experience.
- ◆ **Evening Building Host:** Bethany is looking for an individual to help staff and secure the building on nights when community groups are using the Bethany Campus. If you are interested in this paid position please contact Laura Romig (Laura@Bethany-Denver.org)
- ◆ **Community Time Next Week:** Sunday, December 5 - The Bethany Advent Festival. Come to the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:00am worship service for a variety of Advent crafts, activities, and treats. Fun for all ages!

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820.