



Bethel United Methodist Church

11:00 p.m. December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

PRELUDE: *"Ding Dong! Merrily On High"* arr. McDonald

GREETING:

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Rob Robison

Leader: Christ is born; give Him glory!

PEOPLE: *Christ has come down from heaven; receive Him! Christ is now on earth; exalt Him!*

Leader: O you earth, sing to the Lord!

PEOPLE: *O you nations, praise Him in joy, for He has been glorified!*

*OPENING CAROL: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* Stzs. 1, 3, & 5 #234

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.
O come let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Child for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace Thee with love and awe.
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?
O come let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

OPENING PRAYER: *O almighty God, by the birth of your holy child, Jesus, you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever-brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

Communion Love offering: It is our custom to receive a love offering when Communion is celebrated. The recipient of tonight's love offering is Community Resource Center of Rehoboth. Community Resource Center helps those in need with dignity and respect by helping individuals and families get to the next step of their journey towards self-sufficiency and stability.

Participants in this evening's service

Greeters: The Gaskill Family

Ushers: Bill Gaskill, Clay Monroe

Liturgists: Rob Robison

Readers: Mary Hall, Clay Monroe, Alison Parsell, Pastor Jim, Kathy Pippin

Communion Servers: Alison Parsell, Pastor Jim, Patti Robison, Rob Robison

Communion Stewards: Charlotte Bastain

Tech Team: Todd Mentzer

Worship Opportunities: Thank you for sharing this worship service with us. You are cordially invited to worship at Bethel every Sunday. For information about ministries and activities, please visit our website: www.bethellewes.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Traditional Worship is at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship is at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Children are dismissed to go to Sunday School around 9:30 a.m.

All Sunday services are also available to watch from home by searching "Bethel Lewes" on YouTube or by clicking the Virtual Bethel tab on our website (bethellewes.org)

BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

*SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Please remain standing while your candle is lit.
Hold your lit candle upright, and tip unlit candles into it.
Please keep your candle away from the hair and clothes of others.
Please be attentive to children around you
Extinguish your candle before leaving your seat
Please take your candle home as a reminder that Jesus is the ‘Light of the World.’
Please leave the candle holder for next year.

*CLOSING CAROL: “Silent Night” #239

*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, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

(Lift candles)

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.*

*BENEDICTION

*EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Alison & Keith Parsell
ADVENT RESPONSE: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” Stzs. 1 & 2 #220

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creations story now proclaim Messiah’s birth;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.
Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.*

OFFERTORY: “O Holy Night” by Adam/Dwight presented by Keith Parsell

*OFFERING RESPONSE: *What shall I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

A Service of Lessons and Carols

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Charlotte Bastian
CAROL “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Stzs. 1 & 6 #211

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, Desire of nations bind all people in one heart and mind.
From dust Thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Refrain*

SECOND LESSON Micah 5:2-5a Clay Monroe
CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Stzs. 1 & 2 #230

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace of all on earth.*

THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 Mary Hall
CAROL “What Child is This?” Stzs. 1 & 3 #219

*What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laude, the Babe, the Son of Mary.
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laude, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 Kathy Pippin
CAROL “Away in a Manger” Stzs. 1 & 3 #217

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay. The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20 Alison Parsell
CAROL “Angels We Have Heard On High” Stzs. 1 & 3 #238

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains.
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 Pastor Jim Penuel
*CAROL “Joy to the World” #246

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love*

MESSAGE: “Putting First Things First” Pastor Penuel

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord is with you.

PEOPLE: ***And also with you.***

Leader: Lift up your hearts:

PEOPLE: ***We give thanks to the Lord our Savior.***

Leader: It is just, right and our privilege that we shall at all times, in all places, and on this holy night, give thanks to You Almighty Father. For you have sent Your light into the world in the form of a tiny Child, fragile and vulnerable, Who grew to be the very Light of light, full of grace and truth, revealing Your awesome glory.

O Lord, on this night of miracle and mystery, we do not kneel at Your table because of our own merits; because without You we are broken and incomplete. But in Jesus Christ, You have revealed Yourself to us with mercy and forgiveness. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. And now You have invited us to feast as guests at Your table. Gladly we come. Turn our darkness into light, our sorrow into joy unspeakable; fill our emptiness with Your presence; that we may grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (sung)

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP:

You are invited to receive Communion tonight, even if you are a guest. It is the practice of The United Methodist Church to have an ‘open’ communion table so that everyone who comes in faith may share in this Holy Sacrament. The Pastor will give instructions for how and when to partake of the communion elements.