

Bethany Lutheran Church

4644 Clark Avenue

Long Beach, CA 90808

(562) 421-4711

www.bethanylutheran.org

CHRISTMAS EVE

+ + +

DECEMBER 24, 2021

11:00 PM

+ *God Gathers Us In His Presence* +

PRELUDE:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

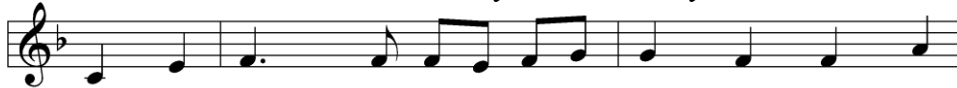
Brass and Piano

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: O sing of Christ, whose birth made known the kindness of the Lord,

People: Eternal Word made flesh and bone so we could be restored.

Leader: Upon our frail humanity God's finger chose to trace,
The fullness of His deity, the icon of His grace.

People: Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell among us here on earth

Leader: As God with us, Emmanuel, through this Your holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became one with our poverty,

People: That we might share Your wealth and name for all eternity!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Jesus, You are our constant star in the deep night of sin.

**People: You are the Light that no darkness,
not even the shadows cast by our guilt or the grave, can overcome.**

Leader: Light of the World,

**People: we confess that little of Your radiance has shown through our lives.
We have delighted in that which is lurid and murky.
Our hearts and our minds have been clouded
with self-pity and self-righteousness alike.
Our actions have eclipsed the grace You would show through us;
and so we have cast a pall over Your glory, because
-we have been slow to seek reconciliation,
-unwilling to help
-and more begrudging than forgiving.**

**Father, for the sake of Jesus,
who was born this night under Bethlehem's star,
and whose life was extinguished on Calvary's cross,
forgive us our sin,
scatter our darkness
and bring life to light in us. Amen.**

Leader: With the birth of His Son, God's glory is revealed to the world.
As one called here to reveal His love and grace, to you,
I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

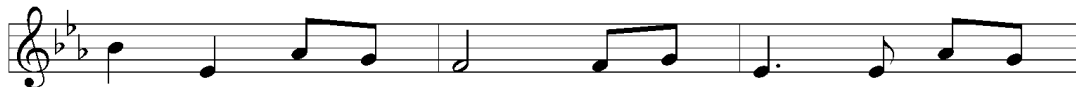
(Please be seated.)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "Holy Child within a Manger"

WOV 638



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us



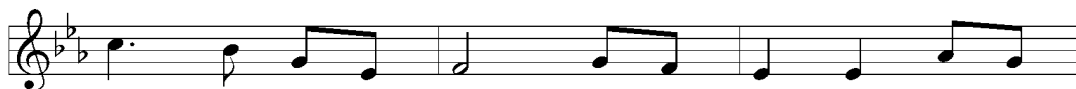
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry



stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

+ *God Gives Us His Word* +

THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS: *Isaiah 9:2-4; 6-7*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before You as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor... For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. – NIV®

CHRISTMAS PRAYER:

Leader: Almighty God and Father of light,
a child is born to us and a Son is given to us.
Your eternal Word leapt down from heaven
in the silent watches of the night,
and now Your Church is filled with wonder
at the nearness of her God.

People: **Open our hearts to receive His life
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn—
that our lives may be filled with His glory,
and that we may reflect the brilliance of His peace,
who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS EPISTLE: *Hebrews 1:3*

His Son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact likeness of God's being. He holds everything together through His powerful words. After He had cleansed people from their sins, He now holds the honored position—the one next to the majestic God [the Father] on the heavenly throne. – GW ®

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: *Luke 2:1-20* – KJV ®

GOSPEL RESPONSE:

Leader: Oh, dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed soft undefiled,

People: **a holy shrine within my heart,
that You and I need never part. Amen.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *“Blessed Is the Lord” (Benedictus)* Bethany Choir
~ Dan Forrest

SERMON

HYMN OF THE NIGHT: *“See amid the Winter’s Snow”* LSB 373



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”

CONFESSION OF CHRISTMAS FAITH:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
who in loving kindness sent a Savior for me.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
announced by angels, worshipped by shepherds and adored by wise men.
He came to suffer, die, rise again and give me life.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.
By whose power the Christ child was born anew within my heart.
He binds me together in faith with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ,
with whom I kneel before the manger until, with all people,
I bow before Christ and confess Him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

+ *We Give Thanks for God's Word* +

ADVENT VOLUNTARY: *"Ding Dong Merrily on High"* Advanced Adult Handbells

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Leader: Lord God, Heavenly Father,
we praise You for so wonderfully creating us
and, even more so, for so mercifully restoring us in Christ.

People: Your Son came to share in our humanity and weakness
that we might share in His glory and life.
Receive now our gifts and hearts
for we have come to welcome and adore Him,
the One who has come for us, Christ the Lord. Amen.

+ *The Service of Holy Communion* +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

PREFACE:

Leader: He who took on flesh and became one of us to save all of us comes to us once more this evening as He who laid in a feedbox in Bethlehem, the House of Bread, now, in, with and under bread and wine feeds us with His own body and blood to grant us the gifts of sin forgiven, faith renewed and lives restored for holy service to God, His children and all creation.

(Time for silent reflection.)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Leader: Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: Through this the very body and blood of your Lord Jesus Christ, your sin is forgiven go in peace;
and the peace of which the angels sang,
the peace the new born Lord brings,
the peace this gift provides be with you now and forever more.
Amen.

(Please remain seated)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**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 Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**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 th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

“Away in a Manger”

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask You to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.**

CLOSING PRAYER:

Leader: Father of Lights, You made this holy night shine
with the brightness of the TRUE Light.

People: Grant that here on earth
we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence
and on the last day wake to the brightness of His glory;
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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.

HYMN:

“Silent Night”

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!

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.

+ God Sends Us Forth for Lives of Love and Service +

THE BLESSING:

Leader: Now the sweet Child of Bethlehem, put into Your hearts and the hearts of all men and women, His peace; the peace for which we sometimes seek so desperately, yet which He alone can give. May He help you to know one another better, to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Heavenly Father. May He awaken your hearts to the dawning of His day, enlighten you with love and gratitude for His goodness and reveal the brilliance of faith in all you do and say.

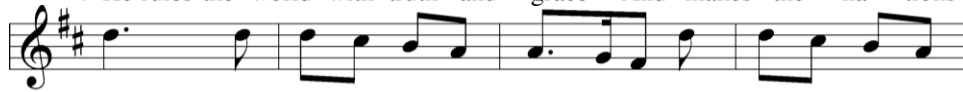
People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE: "Joy to the World"

~ Arr. Cathy Moglebust



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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“Once in Royal David’s City” LSB 376

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Carol at the Manger. Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950.
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“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” – Charles Wesley
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“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

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“Away in a Manger”—James R. Murray

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“Silent Night” LSB 363

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“Joy to the World” LSB 387

Isaac Watts | George Frideric Handel. Arr. Cathy Moglebust. Text and Tune: Public domain.

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte... Tyler DeJongh
Bethany Choir and Bells Director... Jordan Kirby
Organist... Robert Bottoms
Preacher... Pastor Kyle Blake
Camera... Jonathan Goebel

Crucifer... Soren Widmann
Accompanist... Kevin Bowers
Liturgist... Senior Pastor Kevin L. Kritzer
Sound...Jon Widmann



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CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP SERVICES



Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion

Saturday, December 25th at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

1st Sunday after Christmas Services

Sunday, December 26th

Bethany Lutheran Church - at 9:30 AM

(Bethany has ONE Service ONLY – NO 8:00 AM)

The Gathering - at 10:00 AM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church - at 11:00 AM

PLEASE NOTE: *There will be **NO** live streamed service on December 26th.*



There is NO New Year's Eve Worship Service this year.