Bethany Lutheran Church

4644 Clark Avenue Long Beach, CA 90808 (562) 421-4711 www.bethanylutheran.org



CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24, 2022 1:00 and 3:00 PM

PRELUDE:

<u>1:00</u> Organ

3:00 "He Is Born" Flute and Piano ~ arr. Mark Albrecht

WELCOME



CALL TO WORSHIP:

(Children, please ring your bell when it's your turn to speak.)

Leader 1: Hear the holy angels singing "Glory be to God on high!"

Leader 2: To the world their song is bringing joy and peace that will not die!

Leader 1: Let all children sing and chime:

Children & Parents: Peace and Joy! It's Christmas time!

Leader 2: To that holy Child be given all our lives though weak and small,

Leader 1: Then with Jesus in us living, we will show His love to all:

Leader 2: Let all children sing and chime:

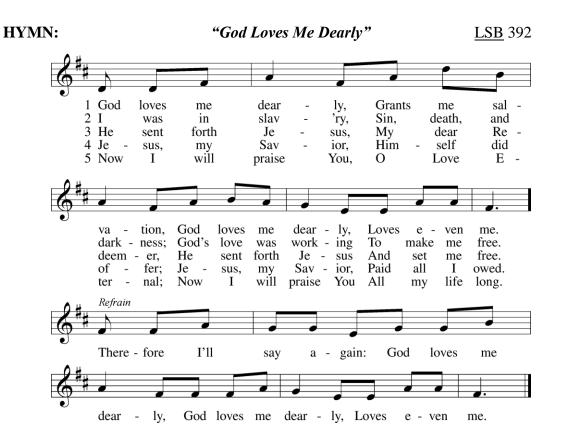
Children & Parents: Peace and Joy! It's Christmas time!

Leader 1: Sweetest song of this bright season is the one glad heart's compose:

Leader 2: Jesus is the joy and reason for this peace His birth bestows;

Leader 1: Let all children sing and chime:

Children & Parents: Peace and Joy! It's Christmas time!



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Glorious God in the highest heaven,

we confess that we allow the joy of Christmas

to fade and flee all too quickly.

People: Unlike the shepherds,

at times we find it hard to be in awe over Your presence and promises.

Unlike the angels,

we have on occasion kept Your praise to ourselves.

Leader: Like the townsfolk of Bethlehem,

often we determine that there is no room in our lives for You,

and perhaps at best, we'll offer a small,

unoccupied corner of our heart as a place for You to dwell.

People: Father, we have sinfully managed to get wrapped up in ourselves.

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who entered this world in human flesh

and was born this night to live and die for us and, thus, become our brother, our Savior,

our Lord and our Friend.

Amen.

Leader: I am here with Good News of great joy!

For us, Christ was born.

Through Him, our sins are forgiven.

In Him, our lives are centered in the miracle of Immanuel.

God is with us.

People: Amen.

(Children, please ring your bell to the music.)



FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 7:10-14

A gain the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign. It can be anything you want."

But Ahaz answered, "I won't ask; I wouldn't think of testing the LORD."

"Listen now, descendants of David," Isaiah said. "Isn't it enough that you try the patience of mortals? Must you also try the patience of my God? So the Lord Himself will give you this sign: A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel [God Is With Us]. — GW ®

CHRISTMAS OPENING PRAYER: (Text: Martin Luther AD 1483-1546)

Leader: Oh, dearest Jesus, Holy Child, **People:** prepare a bed soft undefiled,

a holy shrine within my heart,

that You and I need never part. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

 \boldsymbol{A} nd it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. - KJV®

CHILDRENS SERMON

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: 3:00 "Glory to God" Trinity and Troubadour Choirs

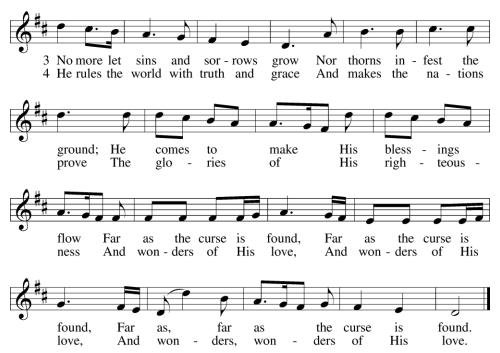
~ Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, arr. Michael Burkhardt

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387 vs. 3 & 4

(Children, please ring your bell to the music.)



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Leader: Lord, let Your goodness appear to us so we, made in Your image,

may conform ourselves to Your likeness.

People: Lord, You have come to us as a small child,

but You have brought us the grandest gift of all,

the gift of God's eternal love.

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.

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!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING:

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's 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.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true. Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

"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.



THE BLESSING:

(Children, please ring your bell when it's your turn to speak.)

Leader: The children from each land and race shall gaze

upon the Christ-child's face like theirs, but shinning divine grace

Children of God: For He is the true light!

Leader: Then go His birth to tell and sing, the shepherd's message echoing,

as angels this good news to bring

Children of God: 'Tis love that's come all right!

Leader: Like mother with the child in arms,

like father who the babe disarms,

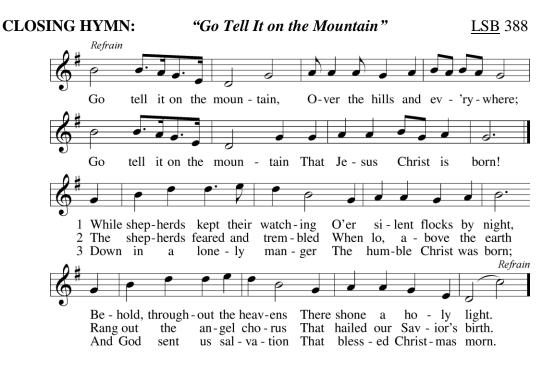
like Magi who shall bring their charms

Children of God: In Jesus Christ delight!

Leader: So cast away all worldly weight

and make your heart an offering great, and at His manger celebrate

Children of God: Our + Savior's born this night!



POSTLUDE: 1:00 Organ

> "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" 3:00

> > ~ arr. Lynette Maynard

+

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Children's Sermon... Kayleigh Lopez

+

Acolyte 1:00... Acolyte 3:00... Reenie Long

Usher Team 1:00... Team 2

School Choir Director... Sara Cerulle

Organist 1:00... David Rathke

Liturgist... Senior Pastor Kevin L. Kritzer

Elder 1:00... Elder 3:00...

Crucifer 1:00... Crucifer 3:00... Jamie Long

Flute and Piano

Usher Team 3:00... Team 4 Flute 3:00... Julie Long

Organist / Accompanist 3:00... Kevin Bowers

Preacher... Pastor Kyle Blake

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"O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379

Text: John F. Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley. Tune: John F. Wade; setting: The Hymnal 1940. Text and music: Public domain.

"God Loves Me Dearly" LSB 392 Text: August Rische, 1819-1906; tr. composite. Tune: Gott Ist Die Liebe; setting: All God's People Sing!, 1992. Text and music: Public domain.

"Joy to the World" LSB 387 Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.; setting: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Text and Tune: Public domain.

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"—James Montgomery; Henry T. Smart. Public domain.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" LSB 393 Text: Polish; tr. Edith M.G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Tune: Polish; setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959. Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Text and music: Public domain.

"Away in a Manger" LSB 364 Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia, 1885, sts. 1-2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, st. 3, alt. Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905; setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959. Text and tune: Public domain. Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"Silent Night" LSB 363 Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, tr. John F. Young. Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber. Text and music: Public domain.

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" LSB 388 Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873-1925, stanzas, alt. Tune: African American spiritual; setting: Hugh Porter, 1897-1960. Text and music: Public domain

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CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP SERVICES



Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25th at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church** (**Bethany has ONE 9:30 AM Service ONLY – <u>NO</u> 8:00 AM)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church** - at 11:00 AM

There is <u>NO</u> New Year's Eve Worship Service on Saturday, December 31st.



New Year's Day Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 1st at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church** (**Bethany has ONE 9:30 AM Service ONLY – <u>NO</u> 8:00 AM) Holy Cross Lutheran Church** - at 11:00 AM

