

***Bethany Lutheran Church***

4644 Clark Avenue

Long Beach, CA 90808

(562) 421-4711

[www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)



**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**DECEMBER 24, 2022**

**1:00 and 3:00 PM**

**PRELUDE:**

**1:00**

Organ

**3:00**

***“He Is Born”***

~ arr. Mark Albrecht

Flute and Piano

**WELCOME**

OPENING HYMN:

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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!**

**HYMN: "God Loves Me Dearly" LSB 392**



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

## 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.)

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 -

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

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

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 7:10-14***

Again 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***

**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

**SERMON: “Why Shepherds?”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Joy to the World”** LSB 387 vs. 3 & 4

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



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



ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

**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](mailto: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.

*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

LSB 363

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy  
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

**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!**

**CLOSING HYMN:**


*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

LSB 388


*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;




Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

**POSTLUDE: 1:00**

Organ

**3:00**

**“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

Flute and Piano

~ arr. Lynette Maynard

+ + + + +

**SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:**

Children’s Sermon... Kayleigh Lopez	Elder 1:00...	Elder 3:00...
Acolyte 1:00... Acolyte 3:00... Reenie Long	Crucifer 1:00...	Crucifer 3:00... Jamie Long
Usher Team 1:00... Team 2	Usher Team 3:00...	Team 4
School Choir Director... Sara Cerulle	Flute 3:00...	Julie Long
Organist 1:00... David Rathke	Organist / Accompanist 3:00...	Kevin Bowers
Liturgist... Senior Pastor Kevin L. Kritzer	Preacher...	Pastor Kyle Blake

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“O Come, All Ye Faithful” LSB 379

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“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;

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“Away in a Manger” LSB 364 Text: *Little Children’s Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, sts. 1-2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3, alt.

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“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 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

**(Bethany has ONE 9:30 AM Service ONLY – NO 8:00 AM)**

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

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



### **New Year's Day Worship Service with Holy Communion**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

**(Bethany has ONE 9:30 AM Service ONLY – NO 8:00 AM)**

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

