Holy Communion

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today 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.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION:

"Emmanuel"	*see insert*
"You Are Mine"	ELW, #581
"Away in a Manger"	ELW, #277
"Angels We Have Heard on High"	ELW, #289

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" ELW, #290

CORPORATE PRAYER:

"Into Your hands we commit our lives. Into Your hands we commit Your church."

GO IN PEACE

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Worship Team for today:
Presider: Pastor Barb Lemke
Pianist: Cindy Josephson **Hymnists:** Heidi & Kiera Davison
Reader: Laina Kelley-Walker **Greeter:** **Usher:** Marv & Ev Kelley
Communion Asst.: Laina Kelley-Walker & **Screen/Sound:** Travis Kleven
Video FaceBook & YouTube: Debbie Diedrich

Sunday Worship Service

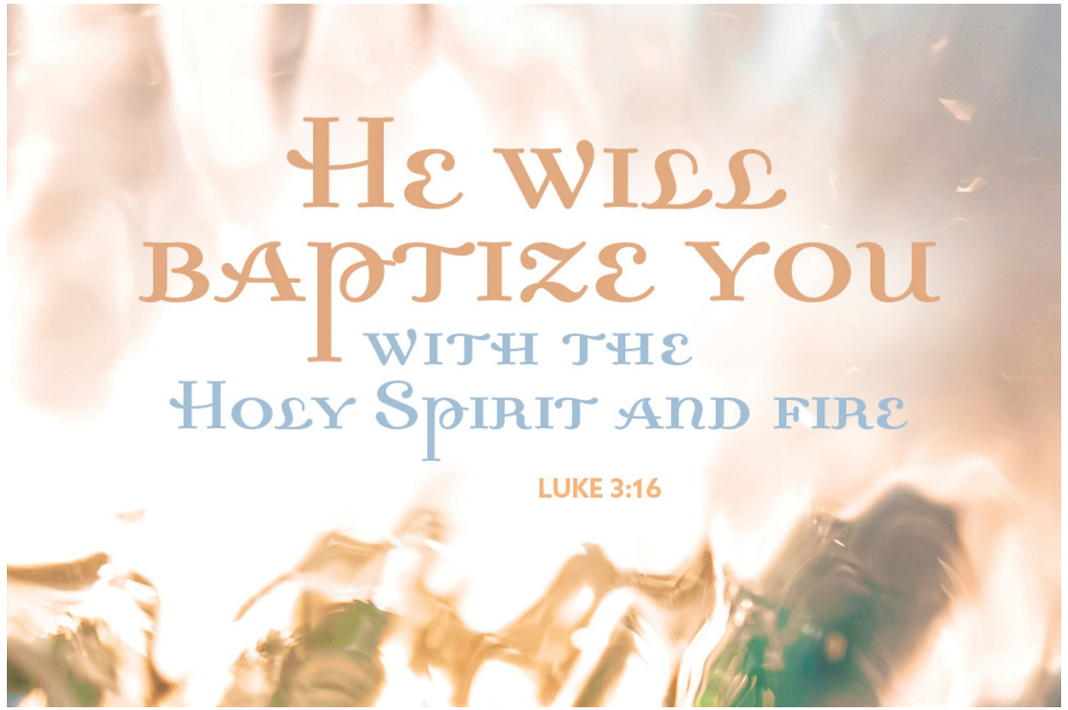

Image: Photo of water and ocean in Te Arai, New Zealand by Douglas Bagg on Unsplash. All rights reserved. |

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Bethel Lutheran Church
1450 Airport Blvd.
Aurora, CO 80011
Phone: 303-364-2245 website: www.bethelaurora.org
email: church@bethelaurora.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
December 15, 2024
9:30 A.M.

PRELUDE: Cindy Josephson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORPORATE PRAYER:
"Into Your hands we commit our lives. Into Your hands we commit Your church."

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS ELW, pp. 94–96

OPENING HYMN: "Blessed Be the God of Israel" ELW, #250

ADVENT SONG: "The Love of God" (v. 1 & refrain) *see insert*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *see insert*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

1ST READING: Zephaniah 3:14–20

2ND READING: Philippians 4:4–7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 188

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7–18

HYMN: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (vv. 1–4) ELW, #249

SERMON "What then Shall We Do?" Pastor Barb Lemke

APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
Ukraine, Israel, and South Korea, our prayers are with you
Areas recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton
John & Casey Howshar
Delores Rasmussen & Dan Rasmussen
Eyes: Marvin Bohrer & Bonnie Frank
Robert McBride – Patti Schoenfeld – Mike Lemke – Susan Riley (Lorraine Chambers' friend) – Ashlyn (daughter of friend Wade and Lynn Hampton) – Alicia Jerrup (friend of Mary Katherine Smith) – Gary (Andrea Newport's brother-in-law) – Scott Petrock (Carol Einertson's son-in-law) – Tammy Hawley (Sheila Kelly's boss) – Linda Hardy – Andrew Carpenter (friend of Alexa Weaver) – Joe Baker (husband of Cathy) – Rodney Steggs and his mother Rita Johnson (friends of Hamptons) – Peggy Russell (friend of Eddie & Pat Garcia) – Linda Kirkegaard – Amber Josephson (Cindy Josephson's daughter-in-law)
Ray Johnson
Danny Cowan
Carol Kirkegaard
Linda Washington (stroke)
Kaylee, friend of Hamptons
Susan Armor (healing of broken legs, kidney health)
Catherine McConchie (stroke recovery)
Glenis and Pat, Delores Rasmussen's sisters (health)
Bill Schmidt (kidney health)
Gerald Kelley, Carol Smith's significant other (Alzheimer's)
Brayden, friend of Debbie Diedrich (brainstem blastoma)
McKay, Debbie Diedrich's nephew (seizures)
Jane Jones, sister of Viola Clutterbuck (stroke recovery)
Judy Malle, Kevin's step-mother (hernia surgery recovery)
Lynn Durant, Kevin Malle's brother-in-law (major abdominal surgery recovery)
Sylvia Cowan (leg and heart health)
Frank Ruhs, Ev Kelley's brother, (heart health)
Diane Laine, Wayne Josephson's sister (pneumonia)
Family and friends of Leisa Mortenson (friend of Lynn Hampton)

Homebound members: Wil Wertz – Jim Craig – Josh Carter

Thanksgiving for Families:
Randy & Cindy Peters
Tim & Caridad Breiding, Elias, Mila Hodge, Jessiah, and Austin
Dan Rasmussen

OFFERING
Special Music "Awesome God" Mullins|Moore
Bliss-Falk Families

OFFERTORY: "I Hear a Sound" (v. 1 and chorus) *see insert*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P Today we light the Advent wreath as a symbol of our journey toward the coming of Christ. Each candle represents a gift that Christ brings to the world. This week, we light three candles, which represent Hope, Peace, and Joy.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah said:
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2)
As we light these candles, we remember the promises of God, who brings light to the darkness, hope to the hopeless, peace to a restless world and joy when we are overwhelmed with sorrow.

Reader 2: Jesus said:
"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)
May these lights remind us of Christ's coming into the world, bringing hope, peace, and joy to all.

Light the appropriate candles.

P Let us pray: Gracious God, as we light these candles, we remember Your promise to send a Savior. As we wait, fill our hearts with Your light, and help us to share Your hope, peace, and joy with the world. May this light shine brightly in our lives and guide us as we prepare for Christ's coming.

C Amen.

The Love of God

Note: The *italicized* word is a change for this week to match the theme of this Sunday in Advent.

Verse 1
The *peace* of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain
O *peace* of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song!

Words and Music: Frederick Martin Lehman, Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai
Public Domain

Welcome!

We welcome all who gather for worship on this day and pray God's blessing on our time together!

Guests are invited to record their visit by signing the Guest Book located at the entrance to the worship space.
All worshippers are invited to sign the red attendance folder in the pew and pass it on to their neighbor to sign.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Poinsettias – See forms in the Narthex if you wish to sponsor one (or more) of the 26 poinsettias we will adorn the altar region with for our Christmas Eve service. Plants will cost $11, due Sunday, Dec. 15.

Missions for December – We are collecting new sneakers and socks, especially toddler sizes, and monetary donations for Wholly Kicks as December's Missions focus. Please mark your checks as Missions in the note field.

Choir – Choir rehearsals are most every Sunday at 8:15 a.m. *with a break following Christmas*. The choir will sing the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

Christmas Eve Worship – 7 & 11 p.m.

"The Chosen" Bible Study – We are wrapping up Season 2 of "The Chosen" in our Bible Study meetings for this year. We will resume meeting in mid-January.

Worship Helpers Needed – Please see sign-up sheets outside the entry to the sanctuary. We are especially in need of greeters, ushers, and communion assistants.

This Week at Bethel
December 15–22, 2024

Sun	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	11 a.m.	Sunday School/Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Tongans
Mon	6:00 p.m.	TOPS
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Tue		
Wed	11:30 a.m.	Senior Luncheon at Mama Alvino's
	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Advent worship service
Thu	11:00 a.m.	Prayer Team
Fri	6:00 p.m.	Tongans
Sat	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Group *(in-person)*
Sun	8:15 a.m.	Choir Practice
Sun	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	3:00 p.m.	Tongans

Join us on
Wednesday evenings
December 4–18
for soup and salad suppers.

Then stay for worship at 7:00 P.M.
as we reflect on the words of
Isaiah 9 about our Prince of Peace.

I Hear a Sound

Verse 1
I hear a sound coming from the mountain,
I hear it louder each day;
I hear a sound coming from the mountain,
And it says, “Prepare ye the way.”

Chorus:

Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way
of the Lord.

Words and Music: Himmie Gustafson
© 1976 The Worship Songbook
Song #14129 Used by Permission – CCLI #1976436

Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel:
God with us, revealed in us!
His name is called Emmanuel.

Words and Music: Bob McGee
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CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

7:00 & 11:00 P.M.

WITH CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scan this QR code for links to Bethel Lutheran’s Facebook page, website, and YouTube channel