

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Gathering

As the congregation gathers, please take a moment to speak to people sitting around you whom you may not know. Hebrews 13:2 (KJV) says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unaware."

Prelude

Holly Slice

As the prelude begins let us turn our thoughts and hearts to God in prayer and preparation for worship.

Welcome to Worship

Greeting

* **Opening Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH No. 211

Special Music During the Living Christmas Story Presentation

Joy Has Dawned by Keith and Kristyn Getty

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Christ is our Hope. We live in a world of pain, injustice, darkness and sin. The world longs for Hope. Through God's gift of Jesus we have Hope. Hope for healing, justice and new life. Christ is our Hope. Amen.

Offertory Anthem

* **Presentation of Tithes, Gifts & Offerings**

* **Doxology**

UMH No. 95

* **Invitation to Communion**

Prayer of General Confession (pray in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pardon

The Lesson

Psalm 137:1-4

Minister: The word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Singing the Lord's Song

Rev. Josephine Locklair

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE HIM THANKS AND PRAISE.

(Congregation, please follow along in your hymnal on page 13)

Breaking of the Bread and Taking of the Cup

The Giving

(The ushers will direct the congregation to the table as the organ plays softly)

Prayer after Receiving

* **Hymn of Dedication**

UMH No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

* **Please stand**

The altar greens are given to the Glory of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethany Family: Hospitals- *No one that we are aware of. Please call the church office if you know of a Bethany member that is in the hospital.*

Christmas Healing Service

Bethany's Christmas Healing Service is for the broken-hearted and the grief-stricken. It is for those whose souls are weary and in need of a word of hope. Join us on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. in Spell Chapel. The Christmas season can be a difficult time for someone experiencing grief and loneliness. Added stress of unemployment or an illness can take away from the joy many feel this time of year. The Christmas Healing Service will minister to those in our community who may be dealing with these feelings. Our pastors and Stephen Ministers will be available to support you. Join us and rediscover the Light that helps us endure the difficult times. A nursery will be provided.

Bethany NOW Advent Worship Services and Activities

Each Wednesday during Advent a worship service will be held at 6:15 p.m. in Spell Chapel. For a current schedule of children's activities during Advent, please contact Emily Vick or Stephanie Mitchum at 843.873.1230.

Angel Tree

Local Missions has placed the Angel Tree on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Please share your generosity with a needy child by choosing an "Angel."

Be sure to sign the log book (located near the tree) beside your angel's number with your name and contact information. Gifts with the angel tag securely attached need to be returned to the stage no later than Sunday, Dec. 10. Thank you for opening your hearts to help a child have a Merry Christmas.

Last Chance: Make up Day for Pictures!

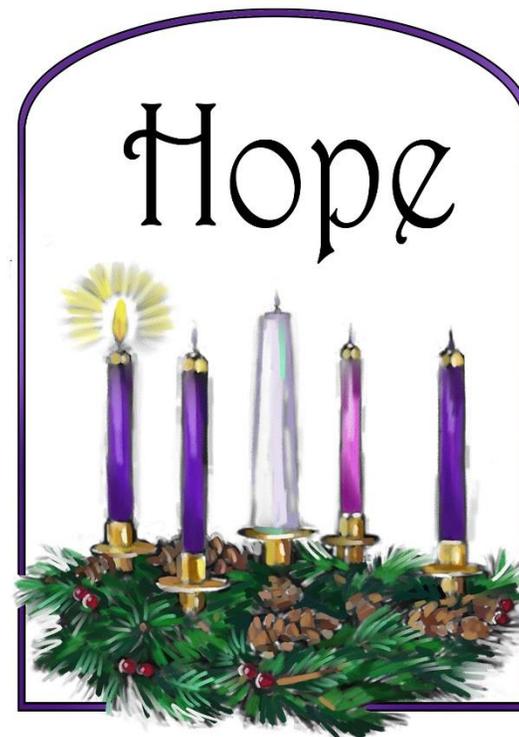
If you missed having your membership photo taken for the church directory schedule your photo now for: **Thursday, Dec. 21. Noon to 7pm.** Register through your Bethany Links email or call the church office.

Charge Conference

The annual Charge Conference will be held on Monday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend.

Festival of Carols Dec. 17

Our second annual Festival of Carols on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. will feature all of the Bethany music ensembles joining together to celebrate Christ's birth. All of the selections will be interspersed with scripture read by members of the Bethany Music Ministry and members of the Bethany staff and clergy. In addition, selected hymns will be sung by everyone. We hope you will join us for this wonderfully festive concert.



Bethany United Methodist Church
Spell Chapel ~ 8 o'clock a.m.

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843-873-1230

