

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

Fourth 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, piano

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** *Away in a Manger* *UM Hymnal No. 217*

* **Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ Love**

Today we light the candle of Love. God so Loved the world he gave His Son. God's gift of Love brings us hope, peace, joy and salvation. May the Love of the Christ child born in Bethlehem bless you this day. Amen

Canticle of Mary ~ Luke 1:47-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.**

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

**the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is the name of the Lord,
whose mercy is on those who fear God
from generation to generation.**

The arm of the Lord is strong,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

**God has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich empty away.

**God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,
remembering the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

* **Gloria Patri, No. 70**

Meineke

Pastoral Prayer

The 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. Amen.*

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

* **Doxology**

UM Hymnal Pg. 95

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

MAKE ROOM

Rev. Bob Lee

* **Affirmation of Faith**

Hymnal No. 881

* **Hymn of Dedication**

UM Hymnal No. 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

*For those who are able, please stand.

The altar greens are given to the glory of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethany Family: Bob Lesch - Life Care Center of Charleston,

Sympathies: Our Christian Sympathies to Mandy Killiri on the death of her mother-in-law, Terri Killiri.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Bethany UMC will celebrate the birth of our Messiah with four Christmas Eve worship services.

- **5 P.M.* *Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary:*** For families with young children. Music will be provided by the Cherub, Wesley and Melody Choirs. A nursery will be provided.
- **7:30 P.M.* *Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary:*** Features the Chancel Choir, Bethany's premier adult chorus. Holy Communion will be served. A nursery will be provided.
- **7:30 P.M.* *Contemporary Candlelight Service in the Fellowship Hall:*** Includes music by the Word and Table Praise Band. Holy Communion will be served. A nursery will be provided.
- **11 P.M. *Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary:*** Features the Chancel Choir. This candlelight worship service, which concludes at midnight, is the most formal and ceremonial of the four Christmas Eve services. Holy Communion will be served.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Morning

New Year's Eve Sunday Morning Services will be at 8 a.m. in Spell, 8:45 a.m. Word and Table, and one traditional service in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday school, nursery, or Children's Church.

Altar Flowers Needed

Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one. Flowers are needed for 2018. Please contact Donna Crowe at dcrowe@bethany-umc.com or 843.873.1230 ext.14 to reserve a date.

End of Year Offerings

The last day the church office will be open to receive your year-end offerings to be credited in 2017 is Friday, Dec. 29. The office will be open until **12 p.m.**

If you prefer to mail your year-end offering, please make certain that your letter is postmarked no later than Dec. 31. For further information about giving, offering envelopes or automatic drafts, contact Ann Gill at 843.873.1230



Bethany United Methodist Church
Spell Chapel ~8 o'clock am

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