

## Bethany United Methodist Church

December 24, 2017  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
10:00 am

### Order of Worship

#### 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

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

*I Saw Three Ships* arr. C. Tambling  
Michael López, piano

#### Welcome and Parish Concerns

Rev. Mitch Houston

\* **Processional Hymn, No. 234** (vvs. 1, 2 & 3) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *Adeste Fideles*

#### The Morning Prayer

#### Offertory

\* **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

\* **Doxology, No. 94**

*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

#### Lighting of the Advent Candle - Love

David and Emily Vick and Family

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

#### Congregational Response

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel. (Sing twice.)*

#### First Lesson

*Genesis 22:15-18*

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth will obtain blessings.

**Hymn, No. 211** (vvs 1 & 2)

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Veni Emmanuel

#### Second Lesson

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

**Hymn, No. 196**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Hyfrydol*

#### Third Lesson

*Isaiah 11:1-4a*

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation.

**Hymn, No. 230** (vvs. 1 & 3)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*St. Louis*

#### Fourth Lesson

*Luke 1:26-35, 38*

The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom will never end.

**Hymn, No. 249**

*There's A Song in the Air*

Christmas Song

#### Fifth Lesson

*Luke 2:1-7*

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

**Hymn, No. 217** (vvs. 1 & 2)

*Away in a Manger*

Away in a Manger

#### Sixth Lesson

*Luke 2:8-16*

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.

**Hymn, No. 251** (vvs. 1-3)

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Go Tell It On The Mountain

#### Seventh Lesson

*Matthew 2:1-11*

The Wise Men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

**Hymn, No. 245**

*The First Noel*

The First Noel

#### Gospel Lesson

*John 1:1-14*

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

**Hymn, No. 240**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Mendelssohn*

\* **Dismissal with Blessing**

\* **Postlude**

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\* Congregation stands

#### Altar Greens

The altar greens are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Julie Jett by Pat, Bob and Brad Jett.

#### Those Who Serve

**Greeters** - Gillis and Martha McAllister

**Acolyte** – Jack Bradshaw

**Audio/Video Support** - Technical Ministries Team

## **Stewardship**

*Stewardship is being loyal to your commitment through presence, prayers, service and gifts.*

**Gifts** (\*Figures for December 17, 2017. These figures are unverified.)

\*Budget Contributions ..... 40,576.45  
\*Budget Funds Contributed to Date.....1,807,170.97  
\*Non-Budgeted Mission and Ministry Gifts to Date.....184,447.83

**Capital Campaign** (Figures for December 17, 2017)

\*Capital Campaign Contributions .....2,499.36  
\*Total Campaign Gifts Year to Date.....170,004.67

**Presence** (December 17, 2017)

8 am Worship 51  
Word & Table 200  
Sanctuary Worship 729  
Youth 78  
Sunday School 467  
Festival of Carols 564

**Bethany Family:** Bob Lesch - Life Care Center of Charleston~The Elms

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.

## **New Year's Eve Morning Services**

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](mailto: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