

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering

As the congregation gathers, please take a moment to wave 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, Pianist

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

Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Baptism – Leigh English

Opening Hymn *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Responsive Reading

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 generations 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

Pastoral Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Minister: Let us pray.

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.*

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:31-38

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Special Music

The Yearning
Cody and Holly Slice

Sermon

"Let It Be!"

Rev. Mark Barnes

Hymn of Dedication *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to me, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Benediction

Postlude

The Altar Greens today are given to the Glory of God.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Bethany UMC will celebrate the birth of our Messiah with five Christmas Eve worship services this year.

Please register online at www.bethany-umc.com.

- 3 P.M. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary:
Holy Communion will be served.
- 5 P.M. Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary: For families with young children. Children will be singing.
Communion will **NOT** be served.
- 7:30 P.M. Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary:
Holy Communion will be served.
- 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.
- 11 P.M. Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary:
This candlelight worship service, which concludes at midnight, is the most formal and ceremonial of the Christmas Eve services.
Holy Communion will be served.

Christmas Office Hours

The church office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays on Thursday Dec. 24, Friday Dec. 25, and Friday, Jan. 1.

Combined Service Sunday Dec. 27

There will be one combined service on Sunday, Dec. 27 at 10am in the Sanctuary. Reservations are encouraged by going online at www.bethany-umc.com.

End of Year Giving

The last day the church office will be open to receive your year-end offerings to be credited in 2020 is Thursday, Dec. 31. 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 or offering envelopes please contact Mary Dove Murray or Ann Gill at 843.873.1230.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are ready for pick up in the hallway near the kitchen. Please help us be a good steward of our finances by picking your envelopes up today.



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

118 West 3rd South Street, Summerville, SC 29483

www.bethany-umc.com

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