



Let the peace of  
Christ rule in your  
hearts... And be  
thankful.  
Colossians 3:15

Abraham  
Hunter  
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NOVEMBER 2024 BEACON

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BETHLEHEM UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
45 Chapel Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003-4815



26003-2





Happy moments, PRAISE GOD.  
 Difficult moments, SEEK GOD.  
 Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD.  
 Painful moments, TRUST GOD.  
 Every moment, THANK GOD.



WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45 a.m.

Communion with our C.O.M. approved

Bill & Kathy Syphers, or a Presbyterian, Lutheran,

Church Phone: 304-242-4407



or Episcopal Minister

Email: [secretary@bupcwheeling.org](mailto:secretary@bupcwheeling.org)

Web Site: <https://bupcwheelingwv.org>

Church Staff

Music Director & Organist ~ Cliff Elliott

Custodian & Grounds Keeper ~ Dan Burns

Treasurer ~ Eydie Garvin

Secretary ~ Sue Lane Johnson

WITH *God*

ALL THINGS ARE

*possible*



November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					2
10:45 a.m. Worship Service and COMMUNION		Election Day VOTE			NEW 1	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:45 a.m. Worship Service CONGREGATION MTG.	Veterans Day Armistice Day - WWI			8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:45 a.m. Worship Service DEACONS after coffee					FULL	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:45 a.m. Worship Service	7 p.m. Session			Thanksgiving Day Men's BRKFT. T.B. A. in Bulletin.		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER  
 10:45 a.m.  
 Worship  
 Service and  
 COMMUNION

Advent  
 begins

his love  
 endures forever





## SESSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

A meeting of the Session of the Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) was held on Monday, September 23, 2024 in the Church Library.  
There was no moderator present.  
The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 PM.  
It was determined that a quorum was present.

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Eydie Garvin, Bob Mengeu, Bill Syphers, Sue Johnson, Jody Werner, Bob Young

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's reports for August, 2024 were presented for review and placed on file.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the August 26, 2024 Session meeting were presented for review. Bob Mengeu made a correction to the statement about painting of Fellowship Hall. Eydie made the motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Bob seconded and the minutes were accepted and placed on file.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: OUR OFFERING TO GOD THROUGH SERVICE**  
**ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE:** Eydie Garvin

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** Bob Mengeu

1. Bob reported that he had gotten an estimate for sealing and crack repair of the parking lot.
2. He reported that the new windows and siding had been installed.
3. The furnaces need checked in preparation for winter.

**BY-LAWS:** Committee is not active at this time.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Sue Johnson.

1. Sue suggested that the Church purchase 30 copies of Advent in Narnia for distribution during Advent. The Session agreed.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Bill Syphers

**MISSION/OUTREACH:** Bill Syphers

**NOMINATING:** Committee is not active.

**PARISH LIFE:** Jody Werner

1. There will be a special coffee hour after the congregation meeting on November 10.

**WORSHIP:** Bob Young

1. Bob reported that he had pulpit supply through the end of December, but has two weeks unfilled in November. The Elders and Deacons will conduct the Christmas Eve service.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** none

## CHURCH RECORDS:

Communion:

September 1, 2024

18

Home Communion:

0

Deaths, New members, Baptism,

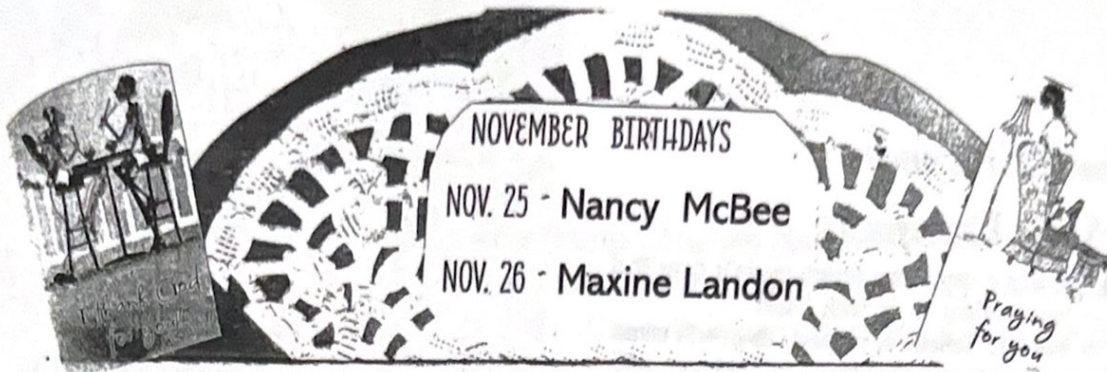
## OLD BUSINESS:

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Session called for a meeting of the congregation on November 10, 2024 after the worship service. This is to comply with the By-Laws of the Church. The purpose of the meeting is to present a proposed budget to the congregation and to elect officers for the Church Year 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER:** The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:15 PM. The date for the next regular Session Meeting is October 28, 2024 in the Church library.





The International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians (IDOP) is Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and through the month of November. IDOP is one day a year, but Persecuted Christians need our prayers EVERY DAY! You may get a daily reminder and a new prayer request every day, along with free resources at the VOM.App (Voice of the Martyrs)

As close as Cuba, their government views Cuban Christians as sheep that will blindly follow the rule restrictions Communists leaders force on them. But the attitude of one Christian stated *they can kill but they can't kill Jesus.*

In a recent VOM Radio episode, David faced persecution as the son of a pastor; authorities even demanded he secretly report to them on his father's activities. The pressure eventually forced David to flee Cuba.

Brother Joshua serves as a church leader in Cuba. Government has put pressure on him to stop ministry. They shut off his electricity, denied him permission to hold services or events. Denied his children, keeping them from academic and extracurricular opportunities. Also threatening Joshua, insisting he could die in a car "accident" any time. Despite pressure and threats, Joshua continues gospel outreach to children and young people, reaching and discipling the next generation for Christ.



LISTEN to VOM Radio: Apple podcasts, Spotify and Online.



*IN OUR HEARTS and PRAYERS*

#### General, Long-term, and Special Health Concerns

##### **Dorothy Werbecki, health concerns**

Rev. Homer Harden, health concerns

Joellen McNeil, health concerns

Nancy Elliott, health concerns

Carolyn Dye, health concerns

David Waites, health concerns

Camden Brown, eye/health concerns

John Adams, health concerns

Nancy K. Mumley, health concerns

**Eydie Garvin, health concerns**

**Pam Cooper, health concerns**

**Cliff Elliott, health concerns**

Kathy Butler, health concerns

Kitty & Ron Patrick, health concerns

Bill Syphers, surgery

#### NURSING HOME & RETIREMENT HOME

Dorothy Werbecki, Continuous Care Center, Room 248,

236 Hullihen Place, Medical Park, Wheeling, WV 26003

Peggy Foster, Good Shepherd Nursing Home,

159 Edington Lane, Wheeling, WV 2600

Craig Garvin, Peterson Healthcare & Rehab Center,

20 Homestead Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003

Tom Hostutler, Moundsville Healthcare Center, Room 404,

2200 Floral Avenue, Moundsville, WV 26041

Don Hinton, Continuous Care Center, Room

236 Hullihen Place, Medical Park, Wheeling, WV 26003

*believe* 



## ◆ So Many Dreamers

1. Who told Pilate that a worrisome dream made it clear that Pilate was to have nothing to do with Jesus?
2. According to one Old Testament prophet, there will come a day when young men will see visions and old men will dream dreams. Which prophet?
3. Who repeats the words of this prophet in an early Christian sermon?
4. Joseph, Mary's husband, was warned in dreams to do four things. What?
5. In Nebuchadnezzar's famous tree dream, who is symbolized by the majestic tree that is cut down?
6. Daniel had a dream of four beasts rising out of the sea. What did they look like?
7. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue, what four metals are mentioned as composing the statue?
8. One of Gideon's soldiers dreamed of a Midianite tent being overturned by an unlikely object. What was it?
9. When God came to the young Solomon in a dream and asked him what he desired, what did Solomon ask for?
10. What three Egyptian officials did Joseph interpret dreams for?
11. God protected Jacob by sending a dream of warning that Jacob should not be pursued or harmed. Who received this dream?
12. Who irritated his brothers by telling them of his dreams?
13. Who slept on a stone pillow at Bethel and had a dream of a stairway to heaven?

October's Quiz was "Second in Line" and the answers are:

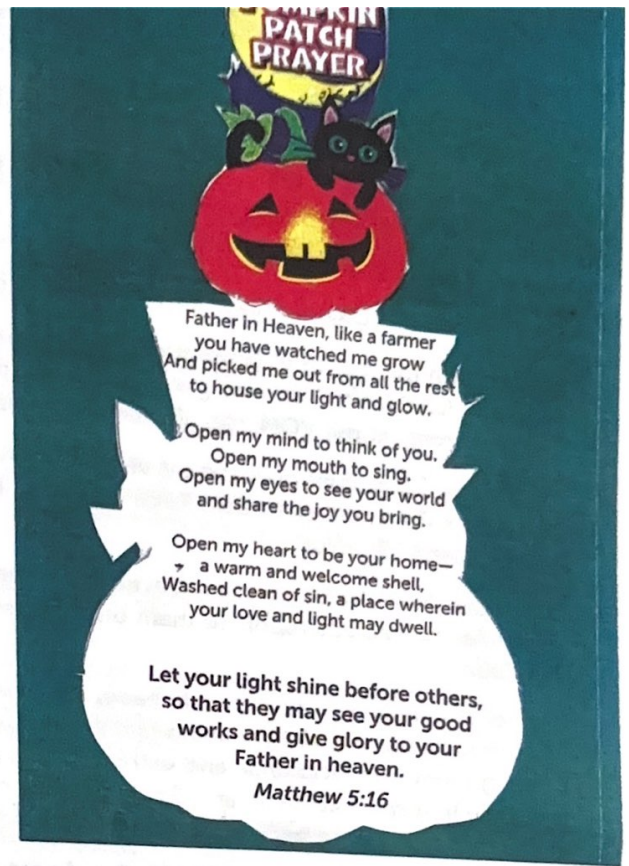
1. At 969 years, Methuselah was the longest-lived man. Who came in second at 962 years?
2. Saul was the first king of Israel. Who was the second? (Hint: Wasn't David!)
3. The first covenant God made with man was His covenant with Noah. With whom did He make the second covenant?
4. In John's Gospel, Jesus' first miracle is turning water into wine. What is the second miracle?
5. Stephen was the first Christian martyr. What apostle was the second?
6. Paul's first traveling companion was Barnabas. Who was the second?
7. The first plague in Egypt was the turning of the Nile waters to blood. What was the second plague?
8. Othniel was the first judge of Israel. Who was the second?
9. Jacob's firstborn was Reuben. Who was his second son?
10. David's first capital city was Hebron. What was his second and more famous capital?
11. The serpent in Eden was the first talking animal in the Bible. What was the second?
12. Eve is the first woman in the Bible. Who is the second?
13. Solomon led the way in constructing the first temple in Jerusalem. Who led in the building of the second temple?
14. Esther is the first book in the Bible not to mention the name of God. What is the second book with this omission?

## Second in Line (Answers)

1. Jared (Genesis 5:20)
2. Ishbosheth (2 Samuel 2:8-10)
3. Abraham (Genesis 15-17)
4. Healing an official's son in Cana (John 4:43-54)
5. James, brother of John (Acts 12:1-2)
6. Silas (Acts 15:36-41)
7. Frogs (Exodus 8:1-8)
8. Ehud (Judges 3:15)
9. Simeon (Genesis 29:33)
10. Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:6-10)
11. Balaam's donkey (Numbers 22:28-30)
12. Cain's wife, who is not named (Genesis 4:17)
13. Zerubbabel and Joshua (Ezra 3)
14. Song of Solomon



Yes, Jesus loves me!





On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, someone working for Breaking Christian News (BCN), wrote an article that was also posted on BCN, about one family's account of faith in the midst of *great loss*, amid the devastation of Hurricane Helene. The article can be read via FOX Weather-Charlotte, but for those of us who didn't read the article: Meghan Drye, along with her seven year old son, Micah, and her parents, on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, had been clinging to the roof of their house in North Carolina, as flood waters from Helene rose. As they hoped for rescue, the house eventually gave way, plunging the four of them into the raging river, along with their dog.

Megan spent some five hours in the water, but was finally rescued. Much later, the bodies of her mother and father and her precious son Micah, were recovered.

Meghan described in an interview those final glimpses of Micah and how his faith helped her carry on, "I'm so proud of my son because in those last moments he *wasn't* screaming for me, he was screaming, 'Jesus, Jesus, save me. Jesus, I hear You. Jesus, I'm calling upon You,'" she recalled.

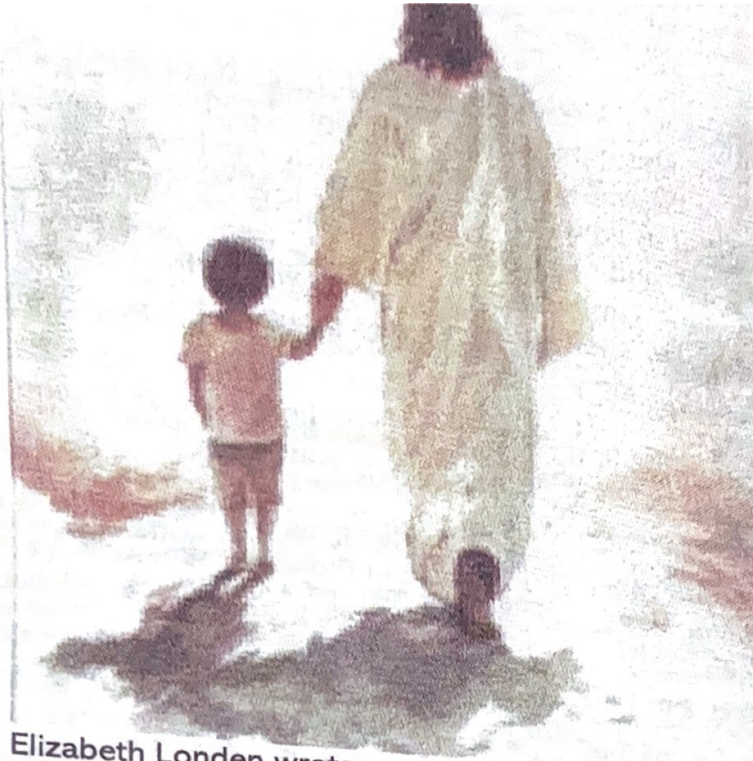
Everything he wanted to be, was a superhero. That was his goal in life, and in a sense *he's my hero*, because he reached for something past flesh, past human, past anything that I think even grown adults would reach for, and he called out to the *one God Almighty*. And I think in that moment he was rescued, and he became my hero. . . he was screaming for Jesus, and I think in that moment he found joy."

**BUT** now there is much more to this story, and it's absolutely beautiful.

Elizabeth Londen is a Believer and an artist. She describes herself on Facebook as a "Daughter of The King, Christian artist, muralist, wife and mother."

Elizabeth had NOT heard about Meghan Drye's loss; however on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, she says she woke up crying, because she had a "title on my heart." The title was "Can You Tell My Mommy I'm Safe Now?" Elizabeth woke crying and was crying through out the morning as she began writing stanzas to a poem. She noted she was "not a poet", and it really sounded like something a child would say. Elizabeth described what she wrote and painted that day, and then posted on Facebook. "This is my newest painting. I'm fairly certain I cried at least eleven times while creating it and writing those words. It's different than my normal. . . but I woke up this morning and the title **came**, then **the words** and then **the painting**. Everything else went on pause. And I'm sure God has His reasons. I hope it reaches exactly who He intended it to. And I pray that whoever it reaches, that it brings you hope and a reminder of Who your child belongs to and is with."





This is the poem Elizabeth Londen wrote:

"Can You Tell My Mommy I'm Safe Now?"

Tell her I don't hurt anymore!

Tell her I feel so great. Like a superhero who could do anything!

Do I have powers now???

Oh. Well that's okay.

Could You please tell her I left my favorite blanket?

Felt like the hug I got from You, warm and safe. . . and I know she could use that too.

Will there be toy trucks in Heaven?

Is my dog Bella up here too?!

Can't wait to see my grandpa, and all the angels Mommy said were watching over me,  
and waiting for me with You!

DO YOU HEAR THAT?! I Love to sing too!

I used to sing a song about how You loved me.

I'm just so happy that You do!

So . . . Can You talk to people down there?

I won't be able to.

Can you tell my mom You'll be there with her?

And she'll see me one day too.



Soon after the poem and painting were posted on Facebook, Elizabeth was contacted by someone and told about a mom who had lost her son in the flood. Elizabeth reached out to Jessica, Meghan Drye's sister, who had been posting updates about their family and the tragedy, telling her that she thought she had just painted her nephew. Elizabeth says, "We got on the phone and all we could do was cry. "Then she goes into the situation: that was the *exact* dog's name (Bella) that God had led me to. . . that dog was on the roof with him. The blanket. . . the truck. . . Then I talked to the mom. . . she told me *that was her son*, and that she'd looked at the poem and painting every single day on Facebook and she felt this peace. . . that he was with Jesus."

Elizabeth had been asked by the Drye family to speak at Micah's funeral in Asheville, NC, and at the time the article was written, Elizabeth was raising money to be able to go to the funeral and take the painting of Micah with Jesus, to his mother.

On her updated Facebook post, Elizabeth says:

"God will find you in the valleys, in the cracks of devastation and in the deepest of oceans beneath the wreckage.

"Do you know why?"

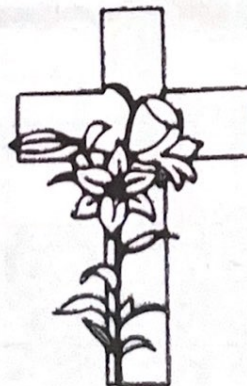
"Because He never left."

"The God that is closer than our next breath, doesn't leave."

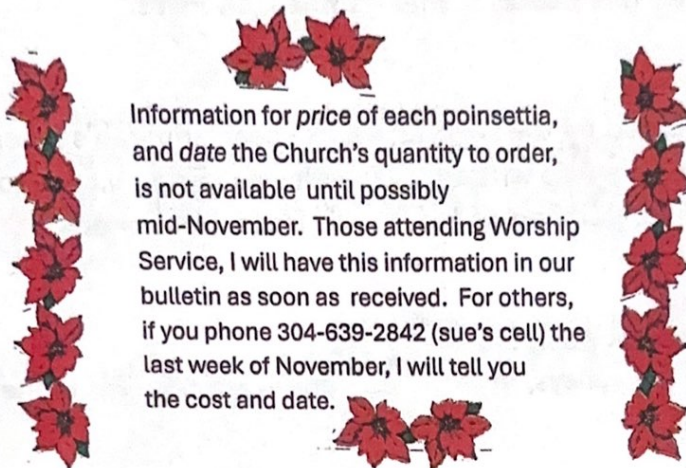
"I'm resting in that truth today."

"And through all the tears, all the stories and God moments—I'll repeat and preach these three words to myself and to all of you:

"Soli. Deo. Gloria. (Glory to God Alone)"







Information for *price* of each poinsettia, and *date* the Church's quantity to order, is not available until possibly mid-November. Those attending Worship Service, I will have this information in our bulletin as soon as received. For others, if you phone 304-639-2842 (sue's cell) the last week of November, I will tell you the cost and date.

If you wish to order a poinsettia "in Memory of" or "in Honor of" a loved one, please complete the order form below and with payment, mail, deposit in the offering plate or give to secretary, by:

**ORDER MUST GO TO KROGER'S**

By \_\_\_\_\_, DECEMBER \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

The poinsettias will be placed on the Chancel on Christmas Eve.

Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per plant

Number of Poinsettias ordered \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



**POINSETTIA  
ORDER FORM**



# Advent 2024

Daily Scripture and  
Reflections for the  
Sacred Season

Sunday

**1 Branch**

The day is on the way when God's promise is fulfilled in the tender branch of God's family tree.

*Jeremiah 33:14-16*

Monday

**2 Flow to Him**

All the nations shall flow to the Lord when he appears and is lifted up. May our feet go in the way they have trod.

*Isaiah 2:1-5*

Tuesday

**3 Eyes That See**

How blessed we are to have eyes that see by faith the Son of God. Look for him all around you.

*Luke 10:21-24*

Wednesday

**4 We Have Waited**

How long we have waited, but how happy we are that the time of our salvation in Christ has arrived!

*Isaiah 25:6-10a*

Thursday

**5 Rock Solid**

When we build our lives on God, our future in Christ is rock solid and will not fail.

*Matthew 7:21, 24-27*

Friday

**6 Holy Is He**

We are the work of his hands and the children of our God, and so we say of the Son, "Holy is his name."

*Isaiah 29:17, 24*

Saturday

**7 Listen**

Listen for the voice of God, and walk in the way he directs you to go—to a life filled with lasting light.

*Isaiah 30:19, 21, 23-26*

**8 Prepare**

Make ready the people to greet the Savior, as John the Baptist did, with declarations of forgiveness to all.

*Luke 3:1-6*

**9 Nothing Is Impossible**

Mary took the angel at his word and let God do the rest, making possible the impossible.

*Luke 1:26-38*

**10 He Carries You**

God gathers us in his arms and carries us out of danger and into greener pastures.

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

**11 Find Rest**

Need to lay some burdens down in your life? Come to Christ to find the full rest you need of body and soul.

*Matthew 11:28-30*

**12 Visitors Coming?**

Welcome visitors as Elizabeth and Mary did: with shouts of praise to God and joy from deep within.

*Luke 1:39-47*

**13 Teach Us**

The Lord teaches us everything we need to know, leading us to righteousness and peace.

*Isaiah 48:17-19*

**14 Elijah**

The prophet Elijah told of God's salvation even when no one wanted to hear it. Who is your "Elijah"?

*Matthew 17:9-13*

**15 Joy**

Why do we have joy in our hearts? Because the Lord is at hand. Why do we rejoice in the Lord? He saves us.

*Philippians 4:4-7*

**16 Authority**

All authority on heaven and on earth was given to him by his Father. So we listen and obey his words.

*Matthew 21:23-27*

**17 Family**

God kept the family line to Jesus intact. Because of Jesus, we are now part of God's family line forever.

*Matthew 1:1-17*

**18 Joseph**

Joseph did as the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. Model Joseph when you show care.

*Matthew 1:18-25*

**19 Quiet**

When unable to speak, Zechariah had time for quiet contemplation. Make time for some now.

*Luke 1:5-25*

**20 The Sign**

A virgin gave birth to a son. That divine sign is what we celebrate each Christmas and every day to come.

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

**21 In Your Midst**

The Lord is in your midst, announced with angel songs, revealed with coos and cries.

*Zephaniah 3:14-18a*

**22 Bethlehem**

The town was little, but the holy birth was great. We who are small can do big things.

*Micah 5:1-4a*

**23 Blessing**

When John was born, Zechariah could speak again. He began by blessing God, as should we today.

*Luke 1:57-66*

**24 Be Born**

Wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger, our Savior was born to wrap us in his love and rest our souls on him.

*Luke 2:1-14*

**25 The Word**

Jesus is the Word Made Flesh. He is grace and truth from God in human form for us. All glory be to him.

*John 1:1-18*

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel...

— Jeremiah 33:14

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