



*“I will cause a righteous  
branch to spring forth for David;  
and he shall execute justice and  
righteousness in the land.”*

## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

November 28, 2021

10:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent

**PRELUDE** "Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel"

**WELCOME**

**GOD'S CHURCH IN ACTION**

### **Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

Pastor: This is the first Sunday of Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is **watch**. God does not come at our command. We watch for God's coming. Advent is a time to watch, to wait, to wonder what God has in store for us.

Liturgist: In the Gospel of Luke we read that Jesus told his disciples: "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with...the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap...Be alert at all times."  
(Luke 21:34-36)

Pastor: (as candle is lighted): As we light the first Advent candle, we **watch---** we watch for God's new day to dawn, we watch for Jesus to be reborn in our hearts, we watch for Christ to come again. Let us pray:

**People: Loving God, you know how hard it is for us to watch and wait. We want everything right now. Help us to use our time well as we watch and wait for your coming, and help us to be ready when you come. Amen.**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: The days are surely coming, says our God, when justice and righteousness will appear.

**People: God's promises will be made known to us, and we will declare God's goodness and salvation.**

Pastor: Lift up your souls in trust and praise; open your hearts and minds to God's teaching.

**People: God's ways will be shown to us, and we will seek to walk in them all our days.**

Pastor: Render thanksgiving to God for all life's benefits. Watch and pray, in holiness and abiding faith.

**People: God's mercy and steadfast love will surround us, and we will abound in love for one another.**

---from *Gathered by Love*, by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1994

**\*HYMN #88**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1,2,6,7)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: If we say we do not sin, we deceive ourselves and are not being honest. But if we confess our sin, God, who is gracious and merciful, will forgive us all our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin together.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited vision. We are often unjust in our judgments and uncaring in our relationships. We are haunted by sins we have not confessed. Hear us as we entrust them to your forgiving care. Help us to let go of our transgressions, to renew our covenant with you, and to live**

**constructively with one another. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, whose coming among us we await with great expectation. Amen.**

--adapted from *Gathered by Love*, by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1994

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Unison)**

**Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS** [Children may leave for "Roots and Wings" activities in the Large Hall, and return to their pews after the sermon.]

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)**

**O God, your Word is our bread of life. Make us hungry for this life-giving bread, and feed us now with your Word, that we may be nourished in the ways of life and love. Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 page 962 in the pew Bible  
Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** "Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God" G.H. Handel  
Bethany Choir

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Jeremiah 33:14-16 page 645 in the pew Bible  
Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** Rev. Carolyn Grohman

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

(unison; from *A Declaration of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (USA), 1977)

**God sent the promised Deliverer to the people. Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.**

**\*HYMN**

"The Days are Coming, Said the Lord"  
Tune: CAROL, #123 ("It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")

"The days are coming," said the Lord to people beaten down,  
"The days are coming in this world when justice will abound.

My people, you will sing and dance, and hope will blossom forth,  
For I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up on the earth."

O God, you sent the prophets here to people long oppressed;  
You told your children, filled with fear, that one day they'd be blessed.  
You said to cities lost, destroyed by violence, sin or war,  
That they would soon receive the joy that they were longing for.

You promised justice in the land to those who were enslaved;  
You said that one day, by your hand, your cities would be saved.  
As sure as dawn would turn to day and as the sun would set,  
Your children there could trust your way; you were not finished yet.

The days are coming, loving Lord, to sing of Jesus' birth;  
Yet cries for justice still are heard throughout this sinful earth.  
In Advent, may we work and wait, do justice, share and pray,  
And so prepare to celebrate your joyful, coming day.

Biblical Reference: Jeremiah 33:14-16

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## **SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

Congregational Response: "Lord, we praise you." or "Lord, hear our prayer"

## **THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER PRESENTATION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS**

(As the offering is received, please sign, pass, and return the pew pads. Please provide your full name, address, phone number, and check if you are a visitor or a member.)

## **OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY #606** (Unison) "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise Christ, all people here below;**  
**Praise Holy Spirit evermore.**  
**Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**Thank you, God, for this family of faith, who enrich our lives and enable us to share. Thank you for making us aware that some people live in fear and others dwell in hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #82**

**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**\*BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**“Now Thank We All Our God”**

Siegfried Karg-Elert

Please welcome to the pulpit this morning Rev. Carolyn Grohman. Dr. Bob is on vacation. He will be back in the pulpit next week.

There will be a congregational meeting on December 5, 2021 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the purpose of dissolving the Designated Associate Nominating Committee.

**CHILDCARE** is available.

**THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:** David Covert, Craig Foreman, Mike Haskins, Sue Kretovic, Gail Kuhner, Cindi Sywulski

**LAY LITURGIST:** Karen Bolinger

**ACOLYTES:** Catherine Tedji, Deborah Tedji

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Peg Cameron, Carole (friend of Beth Thomsen), Wilma Chadwick, Donna Hancock, Debbie Leipold (friend of Bev Murray), Melanie (Debbie Haskin's sister), Nancy Ann (friend of Virginia Britton), Bill Phillips, Richard Platt, Dee Steiner, Cliff Streams.

**Monroe County-wide Prayer Initiative 2021** for the week of November 28 is the Town of Rush.

### BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	11/28	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	11/28	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	11/28	11:15 am	Sunday School
Sunday	11/28	11:30 am	Contemporary Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Tuesday	11/30	10 am	Belles & Beaux – (Sanctuary)
Wednesday	12/1	6:30 pm	Worship & Music Committee – (Library)
Wednesday	12/1	7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers – (Sanctuary)
Thursday	12/2	7:15 pm	Bethany Choir – (Sanctuary)
Sunday	12/5	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/5	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	12/5	11:15 am	Sunday School

Bethany Family, as you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified Monroe County as an area of substantial transmission. Our church will remain fully open for worship this Sunday, but ask that all attending, regardless of their vaccination status, wear a mask, per the guidance of Monroe County Executive Adam Bello and Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Mendoza. If you are not feeling well, please join us from your home for on-line worship. Please continue to pray for our health care workers and for the health and safety our congregation, friends, families, and neighbors. Blessings, Jim Hetzler, Personnel and Operations Chairperson

**THE CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP TASK FORCE:** invites you to join us in planning worship services that will provide our church community with options for hearing God's Word, in a relaxed, energized, personal, and meaningful way. If you would like this opportunity, please contact Cindy Hetzler at 585-317-1946 or [cindyhetzler34@gmail.com](mailto:cindyhetzler34@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

**MEMORIAL FOR SUE BLUM** - To honor Sue's long commitment and service to Bethany, a musical composition has been commissioned in her memory. Sue served this faith community in the bell and vocal choirs, as clerk of session, and in many other ways throughout her life. Cary Ratcliff has agreed to compose a choral and bell piece

in her honor. Though many of you may only know Cary from his 13 years as Director of Music here at Bethany, he is also an internationally recognized composer. We are asking those who would like to contribute to this project to make a contribution by writing a check to Bethany and indicating "for Sue Blum" on the memo line to help cover the \$1,000 commission.

**SHIPMATES: Christmas Party Luncheon!**

It's November and it's time to plan to attend Shipmates Christmas Party Luncheon? YES, and YOU ARE INVITED!

- When: Friday December 10, 11:30 am.
- Where: Brook House Restaurant, Party Room.
- What: Buffet luncheon (available 12:00-1:15) including 2 main entrees, Sliced Top Sirloin and roasted Chicken; Gluten free Spaghetti available.
- Who: All Bethany congregants and their friends and guests are welcome!
- Price: \$25 per person total (tax and gratuity included).
- Why plan now to attend? We have a deadline: we need 40 paid reservations by November 24th to hold our reservation or we will need to cancel.
- Reservations and payment: Make your check payable to "Bethany Presbyterian Church" for \$25.00 per person and write "Shipmates Christmas Luncheon Dec. 10" on the memo line. Give or mail check to Shirley Munson, 2200 Edgemere Dr., Rochester, NY 14612-1111 to arrive by November 24. Your check will be your reservation. (Alternatively, payment may be made in cash in an envelope with your name and payment amount written on the front and handed to Shirley, but checks are preferred.)
- We look forward to a joyous celebration of Christmas with Bethany Friends at the Christmas Party Luncheon sponsored by Shipmates!

**BYF/YOUTH DEACON ALUMNI**—11:00 Christmas Eve Candle lighting Let's start a new tradition! If you are a former BYF member or Youth Deacon and will be attending the 11:00PM Christmas Eve service, please come to the front of the church at the end of the service to help distribute the candlelight for the singing of "Silent Night." We look forward to seeing you there.

**ADVENT FAMILY CELEBRATION:** The Christian Education Committee would like to invite everyone to a generational event planned for December 12, 2021. Our Advent Family Celebration will begin with a children's program during the service entitled, "The Friendly Beasts". Our children will share their talents during the service! All are invited following the service to join the children in decorating Christmas cookies for the shut-ins and enjoying a pizza lunch. \*Pizza will be supplied, but please sign-up in the narthex or by calling the church office by December 10th.

**BETHANY STAFF - Pastoral:** Dr. Bob Spratt, Head of Staff/Sr. Pastor, drspratt.bethany@gmail.com; **Music Team:** Jacob Montgomery, Music Director, jmontgomery.bethany@gmail.com; Jean Coniber, Bell Choir Director, jconiber233@gmail.com; Jeff Tabor, Staff Singer; **Office:** Eileen Sengillo, Administrative Assistant, sengillo.bethany@gmail.com; Tom Olney, Bookkeeper and Contributions Secretary, tolney.bethany@gmail.com; **Custodian:** Jim Cruppe; **Nursery:** Jennifer Watt.

**LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS** - [**Donna Bour-Purdy**, Audit Committee Chair], [**Craig Johnson**, Budget and Finance Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Wendy Watt**, Christian Education], [**Judy Price**, Community and Global Mission Committee Session Elder and **Cheryl Fisher**, Chair], [**Jennifer McGarrity**, Congregational Life Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Judy Montanari**, Investment Management Committee Chair], [**Craig Foreman**, Liturgical Deacons Chair], [**Al Adaskin**, Memorial Committee Chair], [**Bev Murray**, Nominating Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Karen Dobbins and Judy Price**, Pastoral Care Deacons Co-Chairs], [**Jim Hetzler**, Personnel and Operations Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Dick Livoti**, Presbytery Delegate], [**Steve Watt**, Property Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Carrie Buri**, Spiritual Growth Committee Session Elder and **Craig Covert**, Chair], [**Ron Fisher, Jim Hetzler, Mike Kuitunen and Jacob Montgomery**, Technology Team], [**Carl DeGraff**, Treasurer], [**Cheryl Fisher**, Webmaster], [**Bev Bennett**, Welcoming Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Connie Slapar**, Worship and Music Committee Session Elder and Chair].

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:** At times, families or individuals may find they need pastoral support for various reasons ranging from a long-term matter or an emergency. In the event of a pastoral emergency, this can be sought by calling the church office (585) 663-3000 during normal business hours or after hours at (585) 496-4699. In addition, there are several members of the congregation that can be called on for support called Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. To receive support from a Stephen Minister contact Kim Bolinger at (585) 227-2540 or Wendy Watt (585) 415-2351.

***Bethany Presbyterian Church***

*We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.*

**Bethany's phone number: 663-3000 ~ Bethany's website: [www.bethanyrochester.org](http://www.bethanyrochester.org)**