



**BETHLEHEM UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**December 24, 2025**

**Christmas Eve**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

*If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM*

**\*= Please rise in body or spirit**

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

***The Lord reigns :: let the earth be glad***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Out of darkness a light has come.

Out of silence, an angel announces,

**“Do not be afraid...**

**to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,**

**who is the Messiah, the Lord.”** (Luke 2:10–11, NRSVUE)

From a dead stump a shoot grows.

**“So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise**

**to spring up before all the nations.”** (Isaiah 61:11, NRSVUE)

Tonight we celebrate the birth of the Messiah.

Tonight we light the Christ candle.

*[(The lighting of the advent candles)]*

Come, let us worship the LORD,

**for Christ is born; the promised seed has come!**

\*HYMN #100                   “O Come All Ye Faithful” (verses 1–3)

\*OPENING PRAYER

**God of mystery and wonder,  
Creator, Christ and Spirit,  
On this holy night, the angels sing your praises with great joy.  
The shepherds welcome your saving love, born in a manger.  
Mary and Joseph ponder your promise, cradled in their arms.  
Glory to you, O God, for such gifts entrusted to us in Christ Jesus!  
And so we come to praise you,  
singing with the angels,  
amazed like the shepherds,  
cradling the Christ Child in our hearts once again.  
Glory to you, O God, Source of Light and Love for all people. Amen**

HYMN #111                   “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

First Reading               Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

HYMN #138                   “What Child is This”

Second Reading            Luke 2:1–6

HYMN # 132                 “Away in a Manger”

Third Reading              Luke 2:8–14

HYMN # 121                 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Fourth Reading             Luke 2:15–16

HYMN #113                 “O Holy Night”

Fifth Reading              Luke 2:17–20

HYMN #110                 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OFFERTORY At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. December's Jingle Change supports the UCC's Christmas Fund. (*"The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees."*)

\*DOXOLOGY (Tune Doxology)  
**To God, all glorious heav'nly Light  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen**

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING  
**Generous and loving God, your gift to us in Christ Jesus still draws us to manger and opens our hearts with wonder. Bless our gifts in his name, so that they may draw others to your love and the blessing we have found in the One born for us. Amen.**

\*HYMN *"Silent Night! Holy Night!"*  
(During the HYMN we will light our candles. Candles will be lit from the center aisle. Please pass the light down the rows towards the wall, crossing the outer aisles.)

Silent Night Holy Night  
All is calm All is bright  
Round yon virgin Mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar  
Hoder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent Night Holy Night  
Shepherds pray at the sight  
Glory streams from heaven afar  
Heavenly host sing hallelujah  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

Silent Night Holy Night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams form Your holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord at thy birth  
Jesus Lord at thy birth

A READING FROM OUR DAY "It is Not Over" by Ann Weems

\*DECLARATION John 1:1-4

\*CAROL #107 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

POSTLUDE

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Pastor Randy will be out of state 12/25-12/30. In the event emergency pastoral care is needed, Rev. Dan Krueger of Saron UCC has agreed to be on call. 920-946-3351
- Bethlehem's ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, Jan. 25 after a short worship service. Please plan to attend! Also, any annual report items for the "packet" need to be submitted to Traci by Sunday, Jan. 4. (trabefamily5@gmail.com) Thank you!
- Chili Supper Tickets Available – packets of 10 tickets for the February 4, 2026 Chili Supper are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign out any packets you take. If you'd like less than 10 please see Kaye Radder. Payment is due by Feb 4.
- Bethlehem UCC is signed up to work at the Sheboygan Warming Center on Sunday, January 26. The shift is from 6pm-9pm. The work involves setting up for dinner, serving dinner, washing dishes (commercial dishwasher) and cleaning up. There are five slots available. Sign up in the fellowship hall.
- CALLING NEW MEMBERS!! If you've been visiting for a while and feel like Bethlehem is a "good fit" for you, we will be inducting new members on Sunday, February 8. We will meet at 8:45 am that morning for a little paperwork and Bethlehem "education," followed by the induction during worship. We will celebrate after worship with a reception. Please see Pastor if you'd like to join Bethlehem, or if you have questions.

**Community Announcements – See flyers in fellowship hall for details.**

Do you find technology daunting? The Manitowoc ADRC is holding a workshop on 2/25/26 and 3/4/26 from 2-4pm. See flyer for details.

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**Those Grieving:**

The Family of Tom Phillip, Jr  
The Family of Jeanette Wriedt  
The Family of Will Mathes

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Brad Westphalen	Jessica Horneck
Sofia	Melissa
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Mark	Molly
Willow	Margaret

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Wednesday 12/24** 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship w/ Lessons and Carols

**Thursday 12/25:** 9:30am Christmas Worship w/ Communion

**Friday 12/26:**

**Saturday 12/27:** *Happy Birthday Ryan Jeanty!*

**Sunday 12/28:** NO Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Hymn Sing

**December Panty Item: Box of Cereal**

