

"...MY PEOPLE  
WILL BE FILLED  
WITH  
MY BOUNTY."  
DECLARES  
THE LORD.  
JEREMIAH 31:14. NIV

## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

**Second Sunday of Christmastide**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver**

**Musician: Polly Jeanty**

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

**\*= 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

***Make your face shine on me :: that I may be saved***

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #107 v. 1**

**"Joy to the World"**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

**Praise the Creator of the sun and moon and shining stars!**

Give praise, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

**Give praise, hills and mountains.**

All people together, let us praise the name of the Lord and declare God's glory in heaven and on earth.

**Let us worship God!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**God of majesty and mystery, we come to you in wonder and praise, for your purposes are beyond our comprehension, your majesty incomparable, your love beyond imagination and your presence always with us. We praise you for your creation, for your transforming grace and your abiding steadfast love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**Arise, Your Light Is Come! 231**

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show  
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -  
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind  
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

In recalling who God is and what God has done, we remember who we are and what we have done. To begin again with God and one another, we confess our sins:

**God of light and life, you have come to us in Christ Jesus to open a path to new life, but we fall back on what is familiar. We confess that we are in love with our old ways and our resolutions for change fall short. Forgive us who we have been, amend who we are and direct who we shall be.**

*Time of silent reflection...*

## WORDS OF GRACE

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

Let us be assured of God's forgiveness.

**We resolve to make a new start this year, and to be at peace with God and each other, secure in the knowledge of God's love.**

\*RESPONSE

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS (NIV)

### **Jeremiah 31:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> This is what the Lord says:

"Sing with joy for Jacob;  
shout for the foremost of the nations.

Make your praises heard, and say,

'Lord, save your people,  
the remnant of Israel.'

<sup>8</sup> See, I will bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the ends of the earth.

Among them will be the blind and the lame,  
expectant mothers and women in labor;  
a great throng will return.

<sup>9</sup> They will come with weeping;  
they will pray as I bring them back.

I will lead them beside streams of water  
on a level path where they will not stumble,  
because I am Israel's father,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

<sup>10</sup> "Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;  
proclaim it in distant coastlands:

'He who scattered Israel will gather them  
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord will deliver Jacob  
and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

<sup>12</sup> They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;

they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—  
the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,  
the young of the flocks and herds.

They will be like a well-watered garden,

and they will sorrow no more.

<sup>13</sup> Then young women will dance and be glad,  
young men and old as well.

I will turn their mourning into gladness;

I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will satisfy the priests with abundance,  
and my people will be filled with my bounty,"  
declares the Lord.

### **Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Extol the Lord, Jerusalem;  
praise your God, Zion.

<sup>13</sup> **He strengthens the bars of your gates  
and blesses your people within you.**

<sup>14</sup> He grants peace to your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **He sends his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> He spreads the snow like wool  
and scatters the frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **He hurls down his hail like pebbles.  
Who can withstand his icy blast?**

<sup>18</sup> He sends his word and melts them;  
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **He has revealed his word to Jacob,  
his laws and decrees to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> He has done this for no other nation;  
they do not know his laws. **Praise the Lord.**

### **John 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and<sup>[a]</sup> is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE

“Light of the World”

Lauren Daigle

SERMON

\*HYMN #524 V. 1-2

“Let us Break Bread Together”

### THE LORD’S SUPPER

(God’s table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice; the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

**We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.**

**Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.**

**As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.**

COMMUNION RESPONSE #524 V.3

“Let us Break Bread Together”

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER...THE LORD’S PRAYER

Petitions end with: ...our hearts kneel before you, O God;

**Receive our humble prayers.**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE #403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us  
grace.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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. January's Jingle Change support Bethlehem's Mission Fund.

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Doxology to tune of “The First Noel”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye, heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of majesty and mystery, we bring our gifts to you, grateful that you are with us in good times and hard times. We do not know what the year ahead will hold but your love shines like a star to guide us. Bless these gifts that they may keep the light of Christ shining through the church to offer the world truth and wisdom, healing and hope, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*CLOSING SONG “Go Now in Peace”

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.  
Know he will guide you, in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. A-men, A-men, A-men.***

## BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

## POSTLUDE

*\*\*liturgies and prayers for this morning were used with permission from:  
<https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 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.



### **Those struggling with health issues:**

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

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 1/4:** NO Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Communion

**Monday 1/5:** *Happy Birthday Garrett Schultz!*

**Tuesday 1/6:**

**Wednesday 1/7:** 6pm Confirmation Class

**Thursday 1/8:**

**Friday 1/9:** *Happy Birthday Pat Hoban, Jane Umland, Mary-Beth Molitor!*

**Saturday 1/10:** *Happy Birthday Harrison Zorn, Rich Schmitt, Arlyn Retlich!*

**Sunday 1/11:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship; 6pm Mission Trip planning meeting @ BUCC

**Jan/Feb Panty Item: Can of Soup**

