



“Waiting for Jesus”

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE
7:00 PM
DECEMBER 24, 2023

WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS

To trust in Jesus
To love like Jesus
To grow in Jesus
To bring others to Jesus

WORSHIP THE LORD

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

"I Saw Three Ships"

by Diane Bish

c. Lorenz Publishing| Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Ellen Dawson

On this holiest of nights,
we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.
On this most silent night,
we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.
On this nights of carols and candlelight,
we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.
Let us worship God!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING-The Christ Candle

Bonnie, Jim and Robin Miller

OPENING PRAYER

Bonnie, Jim and Robin Miller

Let us pray-
Gracious Father, we thank you that you have not left this world in darkness, but have sent your eternal Son, the light of the world.
We rejoice in your faithfulness as we receive the Christ Child who came to show us your glory, to give us new life, to bring us hope, and to establish peace on earth. We promise to tell the whole world about the love of Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

No. 182

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.



CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. The year is soon spent. What we ought to have done still awaits action, while we commit acts not in accord with your will. We think of ourselves before others; we serve our own needs. We keep for ourselves the gifts of your graciousness. The new life you offer is not yet proclaimed in the land. Forgive us our sins and make us more faithful. Help us to use our time wisely as we follow Christ's way.

Silent Prayer of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear Paul's words of assurance: "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him ... The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." In Christ we are forgiven. **Praise God!. Amen.**

RESPONSE (*Please Stand*) **"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" v.1** **No. 191**
Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

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 all, from heaven's all gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ. Let us be at peace with one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all...**and also with you.**
Let us share the peace of Christ with our neighbor.

WE LISTEN

ANTHEM **"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"** **arr. Michael Praetorius**
 Bethany Choir
 Cello: Hope Trotta

Words: German 16th c; tr. Baker and v. 3 Spaeth | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

*The Choir will be singing the first two verses.
The congregation is invited to join in singing the third verse.*

3. This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.
You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 180

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Brian Janssen

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Waiting for Jesus”

Pastor Brian Janssen

WE RESPOND

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY "Night of the Father's Love" by Pepper Choplin based on Divinum
Mysterium; Sanctus Trope, 11th c. Orchestration by Mark Hayes**

c. 2006/2014 Lorenz Publishing Co|Bethany CCLI License 1761225|Bethany Livestream License 20229965

Bethany Choir
Cello: Hope Trotta
Clarinet: Colleen Jarrett
Violin: Jean Roemer

THE RESPONSE (*Please Stand*) "Away in the Manger" v. 3 **No. 203**

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 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.

HYMN (*Please Stand*) "Joy to the World" **No. 179**

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

CANDLE LIGHTING

John 1:1-14

Pastor Brian Janssen

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

“Silent Night”

No. 186

Violins: Jean Roemer and Karen Harkins

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

1 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.

2 Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

BENEDICTION (*Please Stand*)

Pastor Brian Janssen

POSTLUDE



INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Please be careful when you light your candles.

Pastor Brian and Pastor Ellen will light their candles
from the Christ candle.

The Pastors will light the ushers' candles.

The ushers will light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle.

Lighted candles should not be tipped!

**The unlighted candle should be tipped to the lighted candle
when lighting from a neighbor's candle.**

Following the service, we would appreciate you placing both your candle
and protector into the containers as you exit. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

From

- *Lee and Darlene Restich to the Glory of God.
- *Tom and Carole Aspinall in memory of Harry and Ruth Aspinall and Charles and Irene Fox.
- *Julie, Chris, Jenna and Michael Foltz in memory of Billy Arbogast and our Grandparents.
- *Meagan, Jason, Amelia and Lorelei Smith in memory of James Smith and Robert White.
- *Lynne and Mike Suchoza in honor of our children and grandchildren.
- *Michael Barbour in memory of Phil Barbour.
- *Jim and Judy Davidson in memory of Art and Mary Davidson and Ed and Dorothy Haberland.
- *Alec Heiskell to the Glory of God.
- *Mark and Nancy Schneider in memory of Mary & Dick Schneider and Shelby Stewart.
- *Pat Mishizen in memory of deceased loved ones.
- *Kyli and Heidi Martin in memory of Doug and Shirley Howard.
- *Tim, Darlene and Erica Anderson in memory of Ralph & Gladys Anderson and Rose & Al Susa.

- *Brian and Lisa Janssen in honor of our parents, and in memory of John Gunner.
- *Nikki O'Brien in memory of Jack O'Brien and loved ones.
- *Corinne McCartney in memory of Eva M. Cody and John C. "Jack" O'Brien.
- *Nancy Yenchik in memory of Barry Yenchik.
- *The Petrows in memory of Barbara Rank and Elinore & Joe Petrow.
- *The McCauslands in memory of Eleanor McCausland and Regina Miller.
- *The Rastetter Family in honor of our mother and grandmother, Dolly Rastetter;
and in memory of our dad, Frank Rastetter, and grandparents.
- *Barb Mours to the Glory of God.
- *Ruth and Guy Doyle in memory of Barb & Jerry Phelps.
- *Debby Hayes in memory of Tom Hayes.
- *Claire Grove in memory of her father, John H. Oskin.
- *Carol and Tom Willhite in memory of Scott Willhite, Axel Markel and our parents.
- *Elaine Gray in memory of William T., William C & Martha Gray, Victor Sr., Rose,
Victor A. Bebe, Victor III, and Joseph L. Iagnemma.
- *Kim, Terry, Adrienne, Jeff, TJ and Samantha in honor of Evelyn Barbish,
and in memory of Bill Barbish.
- *Eric and Sherry Gregory in memory of Lisa Geuter
- *Bill, Beth and Sarah Paviol in memory of Gladys Cimarolli, Harry Cimarolli
and Sarah Durkin.