Advent
AT BETHANY PRES
Awake to the Astonishing

Celebration of Worship

Prelude *A Gaelic Blessing* John Rutter *Sylvia Oines*

Welcome *Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults, Danielle Merseles*

Leader: The Lord be with you! ***People*: And also with you!**

Passing of the Peace

Celebrating the Ministry of Hannah Kunde *Wednesday Night Dinner Elder, Frank Holman and Senior Pastor, Doug Kelly*

Silent Listening

Light the Advent Candle *Holly, Thomas, T.J., and Henry Albright*

People*: *We are God's people.
We light this candle
as a sign of the peace of Christ
who comes to us as a deep breath of fresh air
and makes a home among us.
O come, Immanuel.

Song *Shine the Light of Your Love* by Mark Patterson

Shine the light of Your love like a candle
In the darkness of our lives
Shine the light of Your love in our hearts, Lord
Come and shine the light of Your love
Come and shine the light of Your love

Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace," so says our God
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near
Calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here
O, that warning cry obey; now prepare for God a way
Let the valleys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken

By Johann Olearius, arr. Jesse Erickson & Kyle Turver

Prayer of Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: The Word of the Lord. ***People*: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn *Savior of the Nations, Come* (verses 1, 2, & 3)

Savior of the nations, come, show Yourself, the virgin's Son
Marvel, heaven, wonder earth, that our God chose such a birth

Not by human power or seed did the woman's womb conceive
Only by the Spirit's breath was the Word of God made flesh

Mary then was found with child, still a virgin, chaste and mild
God had favored her with grace to receive the Prince of Peace

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Children's Message *Lisa Dunn*

Responding to God's Great Love *>>Click here to give online*

Leader: You have given all to me.
People: **To you, Lord, I return it.**
Leader: Everything is Yours.
People: **Do with it what You will.**
Leader: Give me only Your love and Your grace.
People: **That is enough for me.**

Offertory *Jazz Gloria* Natalie Sleeth *Choir, Ensemble & Casey Spiers, flute*

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria Alleluia
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Christ the Lord is born

Lo, now He comes, the awaited Messiah
The babe who is born in a poor cattle stall
There 'mid the wise men and shepherds adoring
He lies sweetly sleeping, the Savior of all

Tell the news through all the earth; tidings of the holy birth
Sent from God with us to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel

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Prayer of Thanksgiving *Ushers*

Our Prayers to God *>>Click here for the Virtual Prayer Wall*

To share your prayer request on the Virtual Prayer Wall, use your phone's camera or app to scan the QR code on back of bulletin. When the page comes up, tap on the box at bottom of screen that says, "Click here to join the conversation." Select "guest," enter your name or initials, and log in. Type in your prayer request to be prayed over during worship today. You may also visit this page directly by entering www.bethanypc.org/prayer-requests in your web browser.

Sermon *Awake to the Astonishing: Too Good Not To Be True*

The Sacrament of Our Lord's Supper

Please come forward to form two lines. There are two ways to receive the sacrament: you may take a communion kit and partake of it in your pew; or you may receive a piece of bread, dip it in the common cup and partake of the elements. If you would like gluten-free, just ask your server for it. Those who do not wish to receive the sacraments can simply cross their arms and they will receive a brief blessing. A leader is available up front for intercessory prayer.

The 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.

Song *King of Kings*

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope without light
Till from heaven You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory, to a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit Three in One
God of glory, majesty; praise forever to the King of Kings

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Hymn *What Child Is This*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mary

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him
Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary

Song *Amen Amen*

Let every creature rise and bring their grateful praises to our King
Angels descend with songs again and earth repeats a loud Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen
I found my life, I found my life in Him; Amen, Amen

Peace like a river from His throne will flow to nations yet unknown
His word a light where all hope is dim and all tribes unite to cry "Amen" *(Chorus)*

And in this Child we'll find our rest and all the meek and lowly blessed
An infant tongue could sing the hymn of Hallelujah and Amen *(Chorus)*

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Benediction *Doug Kelly*

Postlude *Allegro Maestoso* Antonio Vivaldi *Sylvia Oines*

Preaching Today Rev. Dr. Doug Kelly **Leading Worship** Rev. Danielle Merseles
Ministers You, who are touched by God's grace, being healed by God's love
Date December 18, 2022

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