

Worship Service for Bethany U.C.C.
December 25, 2024
Christmas Day

Prelude
Announcements, Joys and Concerns

CALL TO WORSHIP (Lighting of the Advent Candles)

Congregational Response: #91 UCC *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, today we celebrate how, at one point in time, You came into this world to redeem it for all time. Today we celebrate how You came into the world to reconcile all people to You. We pray for all who worship everywhere today in celebration of the birth of Christ. We pray for all of Your people everywhere. We thank You for the good news of the birth of our Savior. May we grow as witnesses to this joy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY #351 UCC *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dear God, we thank You for all the gifts You have given us. Most of all, we are grateful for the human child who became the embodiment of Your love. May the ministry and mission of this church be true to our crucified and risen Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-7

HYMN # 82 SS *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 8-14

HYMN #81 SS *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 15-24

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN #92 UCC *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

BENEDICTION

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ
with all the faithful of every time and place:

Congregation: **With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel,
we await the promised salvation of the Lord,
and look for the coming of the one
who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.**

Leader: With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness,
we cry: "Prepare the way of the Lord!
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Congregation: **With Mary, the mother of Jesus,
we magnify the Lord, rejoicing in God our Savior,
for the Mighty One has done great things for us,
and holy is God's name.**

Leader: With the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,
we tell the good news of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem,
who came to save us, and is coming again to rule in glory.

Congregation: **With choirs of angels, and with all the heavenly host,
we sing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace and goodwill to all."**

All: **The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Pastor Joel Schlatter Thank you to all who helped with and
participated in the Christmas Eve service last night!

Visitation Sunday is this Sunday, Dec. 29. All are encouraged to visit another church. Bethany UCC will not have church.

Bethany UCC's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 19, with a carry-in dinner at the hall after church, followed by the meeting. Please send ALL annual reports for the 2024 year for the auditors and Annual Meeting to either Lance Roskamp or Kevin Schrader no later than Wednesday, January 8.

Women's Fellowship will not meet in January.

The deadline to make donations for the 2024 year to the Illinois Conference of the UCC is Friday, January 10. See the bulletin strip for mail-in and online donation info.

January-February Upper Rooms are available in the entryway.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Visitation Sunday: Sunday, December 29 (no service)
- Church Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 19, after church

Thanks to the greeter, Pastor Joel, the musician, AV tech - all who helped with the service.

WELCOME ALL! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and come again.

Bethany United Church of Christ
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