

PROPHETS LINED UP LINE TUBES

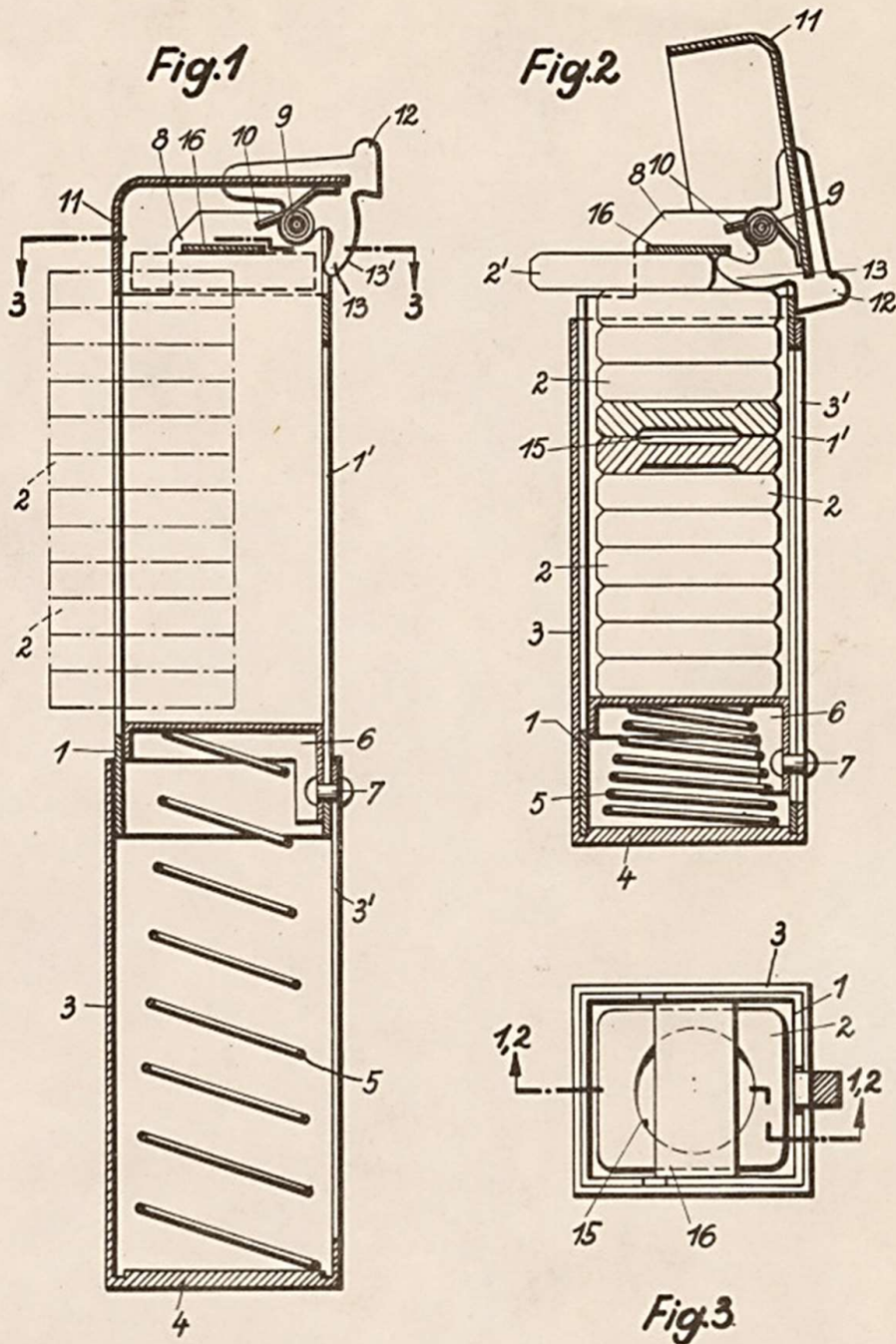
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Filed Oct. 14, 1949



**2ND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 10
2023**

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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TO THE GLORY OF GOD



ADVENT PROPHETS

This service draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent, the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and His Second Advent still to come.

Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

P: "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD.

C: **When He will fulfill the promise He made to all of His people.**

P: In those days and at that time

the LORD will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.

C: **That Branch is a son of David. That Branch is Jesus, the Son of God.**

P: The Branch shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C: **In those days the LORD's people will be saved and His Church will dwell securely.**

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

C: **The LORD is our righteousness.**

P: What does that name mean?

C: **We, His people, are righteous through His righteousness. We are holy because He makes us holy through His Son.**

P: Let us remember our baptisms,

when the Lord became our righteousness...

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

Opening Hymn

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n-ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt.

Preparation for God's Word

based on Malachi 3:1-7b

P: "Behold, I send my messenger
 and he will prepare the way before me," says the Lord.

C: This is John the Baptist who announced that the Messiah is Jesus.

P: Shall we rejoice that the LORD has sent His messenger,
 that the Messiah Jesus has come into our midst?

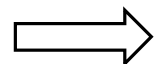
C: Yes, we shall rejoice; but our sin causes us to fear His coming.

P: The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

**C: But who can endure the day of his coming,
 and who can stand when he appears?**

*For he is like a refiner's fire
 burning away the worthless material in us.
 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
 and he will purify us from all our sin.*

P: And the LORD declares to you today
 that His mercies are new every morning. He says:
 "I the LORD do not change;



therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.
 From the days of your fathers
 you have turned aside from my statutes
 and have not kept them.
 Return to me, and I will return to you,”
 says the LORD of hosts.
 Your LORD has drawn you back to Himself
 through His Son, Jesus.
 You have returned to the LORD
 through the work of the Holy Spirit.
 You have returned and find forgiveness for all of your sins
 In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

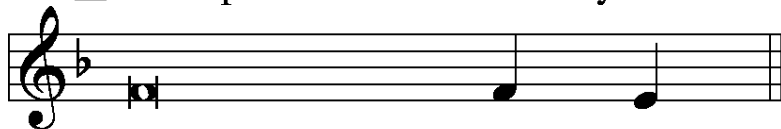
C: The LORD is our righteousness. Amen.

Versicles

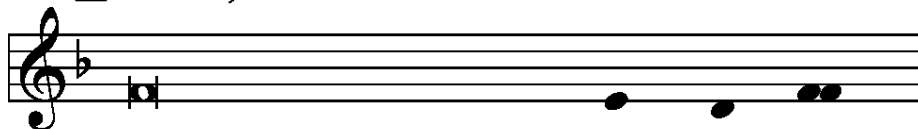
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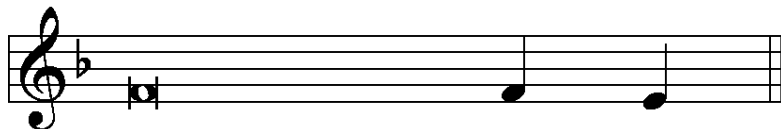
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day for the Second Sunday in Advent)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ***And also with you.***

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ***Amen.***

Anthem

Long-Awaited One

Adult Choir

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Come now, Child of promise, hope of all the earth.
This broken world will be healed by Your most humble birth.
Come now, Child of mercy, Prince of Peace and grace.
Your life will silence our fears and all our sins erase.
Long-awaited One we will find rest in Your love.
We have walked in darkness; let us see light from above.
Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun,
Emmanuel, You are the Light, God's only Son.
You will come to save us all, O long-awaited One.

Come now, Child of heaven, Savior, King and Friend.
O living Word of the Father now to us descend.
Come now, Child of wonder, reign in majesty.
Awaken all of creation, set our spirits free,
Long-awaited One, we will find rest in Your love.
We have walked in darkness, let us see light from above.
Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun.
Emmanuel, You are the light, God's only Son.
You will come to save us all, O long-awaited One.

Come now, Child of promise, long-awaited One.
Come now, Child of promise, long-awaited One.
Come now, come now, come now, come now, come.

Verse of Preparation for the Second Sunday in Advent

Luke 3:4b, 6

P: Alleluia.

C: **Alleluia.**

P: Prepare the way of the Lord,

C: **make his paths straight;**

P: all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

C: **We shall see the salvation of our God.**

P: Alleluia.

C: **Alleluia. Amen.**

Today's Narrative Lectionary Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11 (Robert Alter, alt.)

¹Comfort, O comfort My people, says your God.

²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and call out to her,

for her term of indentured service, her prison sentence is ended,

her crime has been paid for,

for she has received from the LORD's hand

double the punishment for all her offenses.

³A voice calls out in the wilderness:

“Clear a way for the LORD's road,

level in the desert a highway for our God!

⁴Every valley shall be lifted high,

and every mountain brought low,

the crooked shall be straight,

and the ridges become a valley.

⁵And the LORD's glory shall be revealed,

and all flesh together see

that the LORD's mouth has spoken.”

⁶A voice calls out, saying, “Call!”

And I said, “What shall I call?”—

All flesh is grass,

and all its trust like the flowers of the field.

⁷Grass dries up, the flower fades,

for the LORD's wind has blown upon it.

The people indeed are grass.

⁸ Grass dries up, the flower fades,

but the word of our God stands forever.

⁹On a high mountain go up, O herald of Zion.
Raise your voice mightily,
raise it, do not fear.

Say to the towns of Judah:

“Here is your God!”

¹⁰Look, the Master Lord shall come in power,
His arm commanding for Him.

Look, His reward is with Him,
His wages before Him.

¹¹Like a shepherd He minds His flock;
in His arm He gathers lambs,
and in His lap He bears them, leads the ewes.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Collect (Prayer of the Day for Today’s Lectionary Reading)

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



Acknowledgments

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.

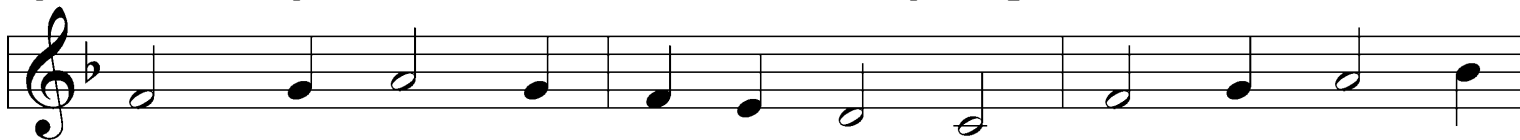
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Today’s reading adapted from Robert Alter’s translation in *The Hebrew Bible: Volume 2, Prophets* (New York: Norton, 2019).



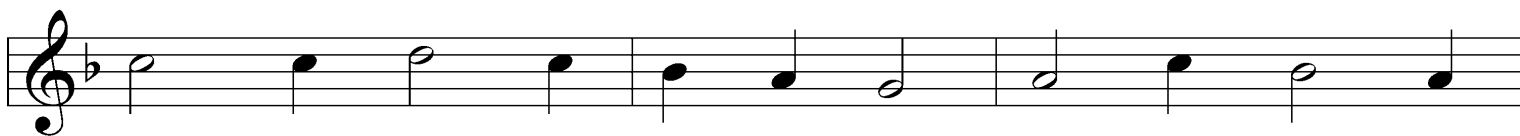
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

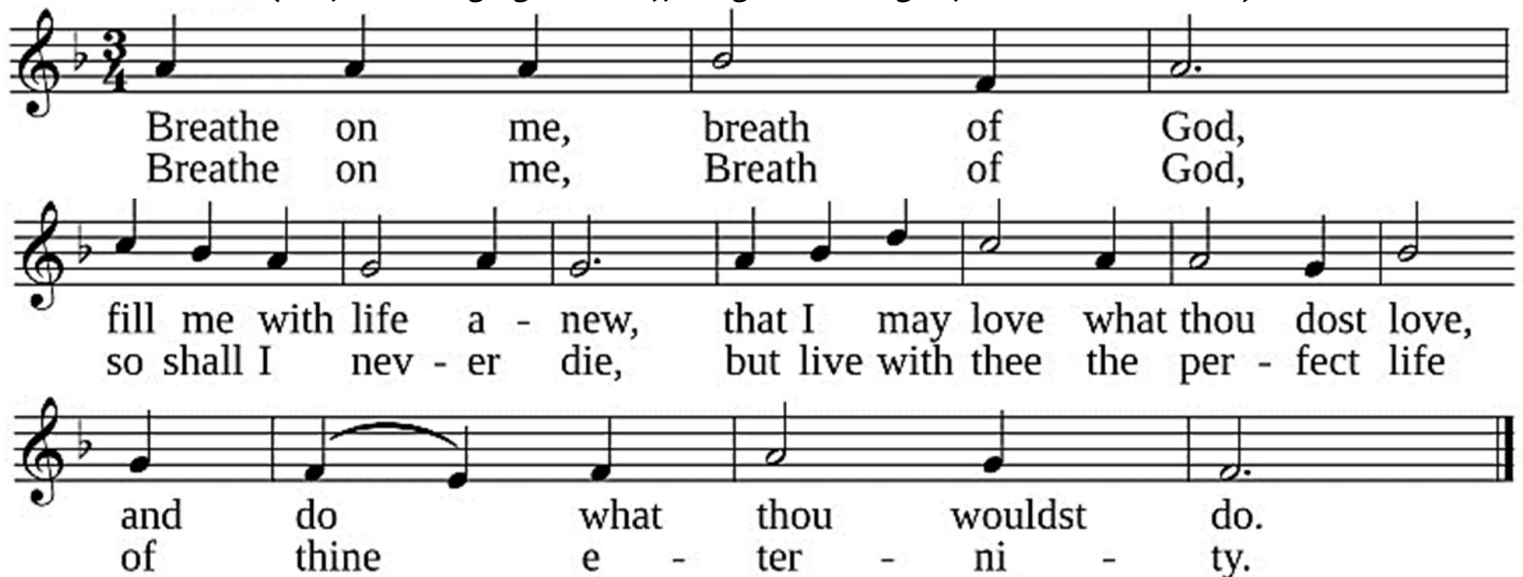
In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

UMH 420

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



Breathe on me, breath of God,
Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life a - new, that I may love what thou dost love,
so shall I nev - er die, but live with thee the per - fect life
and do what thou wouldst do.
of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Prayers

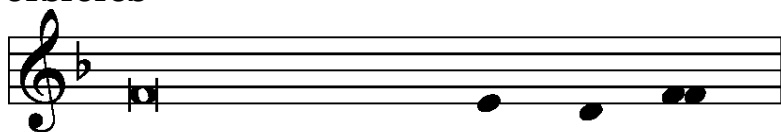
The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

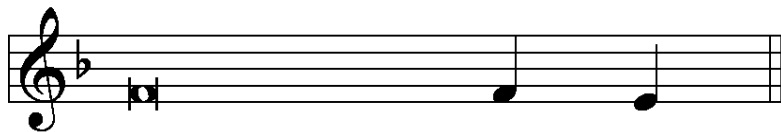
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Versicles

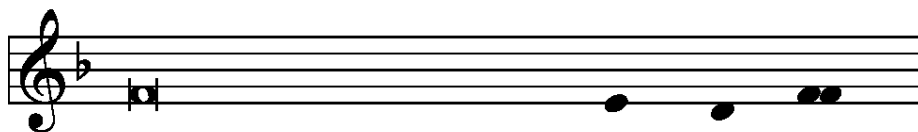
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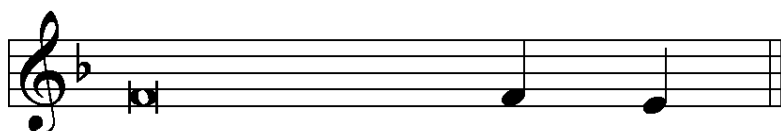
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



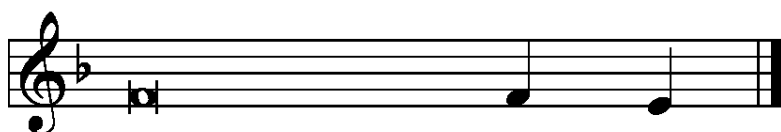
L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Benediction

based on Micah 5:2-5a

P: Jesus shall stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And you, His flock, shall dwell secure,
for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.
And He shall be your peace.
The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and always watch over you.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

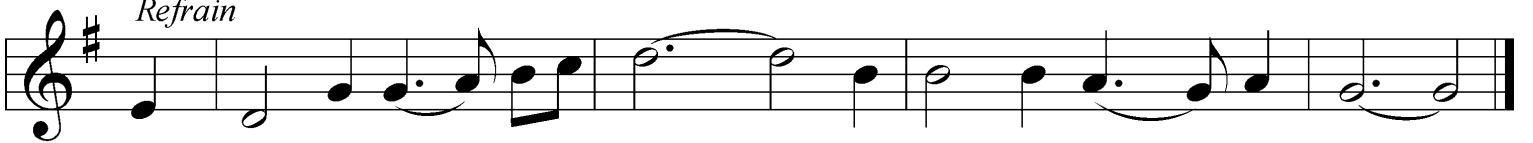


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.
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Announcements



UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (IN GYM) – 4PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

IN-PERSON SPECIAL WORSHIP W/CHRISTMAS MOVIE (IN GYM) – 9AM

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

IN-PERSON CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 6:30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, DECEMBER 25

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 10AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. USHERS, READERS, AND VARIOUS OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THOSE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG.