

BATTEBELAH-EL

GOD IN THE WORLD



IMMANUEL

GOD WITH US



BANUEL

GOD IN US



Christmas Eve 2017

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Katrina Johns, Equipping Coordinator

Direct Line: 224-623-0800 or email: katrina@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

Serving at 6:00 p.m.

Elder: Mike Bandman
Asst Elder: JJ Jones
Acolyte: Jake Kruse, Jude Squires
Ushers: John Schultz, Lance Rasmussen
Lay Readers: Lori Hoornstra, Mike Bandman,
Sue Bandman, Diane Boehm
Greeters: Diane Boehm, Ellen Dalrymple

Serving at 11:00 p.m.

Elder: Bob Souza
Comm. Elder: Tom Pipia
Acolyte: OPEN, OPEN
Usher: Don Heidlauf, OPEN
Lay Readers: Joanne Heidlauf, Kelley Dörner,
Tony Young, Jacob Stoltzman
Greeters: OPEN, OPEN

The Christmas Story & Carols

A liturgy (order of worship) built around telling the whole story of the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Savior, and celebrating with our singing.

(6PM) Opening Anthem

“On a Night of Wonder”

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.

*On a night of wonder, on a night filled with love,
God will send forth a Savior from the heav’ns above.
Ever meek and humble, born a child, yet a King.
We shall give Him our praises. Let the angels sing.*

*Gloria in excelsis, for He shall deliver a son.
Sing glory to God in the highest, the holy one.*

*On a night of wonder, on a night filled with love,
God will send forth a Savior from the heav’ns above.
Yes, a tiny Babe so holy in a manger bed so lowly,
And His name shall be Emmanuel, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Call to Worship

Psalm 51:15, liturgical text

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: *and my mouth shall declare Your praise.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!

P: Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C: *Oh, come, let us worship Him.*



Opening Hymn

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383, sts. 1-3

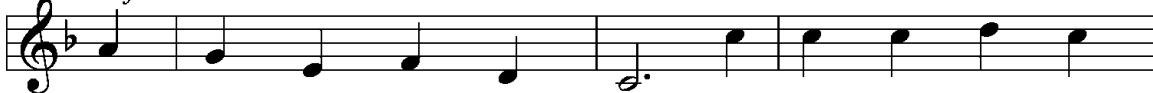


1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Versicles (Scripture Sentences) for Christmas Eve

1 John 4:7-16 (ESV)

P: ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**C: The love of God was made manifest among us
when God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through him.**

P: ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God
but that he loved us and sent his Son
to be the propitiation [the sacrifice in our place] for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.

**C: The love of God was made manifest among us
when God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through him.**

Opening Hymn (continued)**A Great and Mighty Wonder**

LSB 383, sts. 4-5



4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain

Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

(continued) Versicles for Christmas Eve**1 John 4:7-16 (ESV)**

P: ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that
the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**C: The love of God was made manifest among us
when God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through him.**

P: ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God,
God abides in him, and he [abides] in God.

¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

**C: The love of God was made manifest among us
when God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through him.**

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Confession of Sins

P: Your prayer has been answered. Jesus has indeed come to set us free from our sins. So on this evening as we praise the Father for sending His Son, we are bold and confident to approach the Lord, admitting our sin, and clinging to His forgiveness.... Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: *O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Absolution (Forgiveness)

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

① **Christmas Gospel (Birth of John the Baptist Foretold) Luke 1:5–25 (ESV)**

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

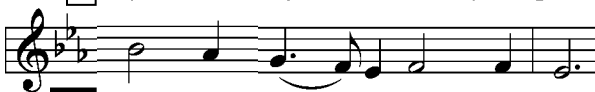
¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵“Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”



P: My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

from LSB 933 st. 1



C: Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

Carol***On Christmas Night All Christians Sing***

LSB 377 sts. 1, 4



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels
an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which
hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to
mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

② Christmas Gospel (Birth of Jesus Foretold)***Luke 1:26–38 (ESV)***

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.



P: My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

from LSB 933 st. 1



C: Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

Carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356 sts. 1–2



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

③ **Christmas Gospel (Mary Visits Elizabeth; Magnificat) Luke 1:39–56 (ESV)**

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

(6PM) Anthem

“Gentle Mary, Tender Mary”

Adult Choir

*Gentle Mary, tender Mary, in a humble stable bed;
gentle Mary, lovely Mary, come and rest your weary head.
All is calm, all is bright; sing a lullaby to night.
Gentle Mary, tender Mary, in a lowly manger bed.*

*Gentle Mary, tender Mary, God has given you a son.
Gentle Mary, lovely Mary: Christ, the blessed one.
Sleep in peace little Child, infant holy meek and mild.
Gentle Mary, tender Mary, God has given you a song.*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gentle Mary, tender Mary,
God has given you a son.*

④ **Christmas Gospel (The Birth of John the Baptist; Zechariah's Song)**

Luke 1:57–80 (ESV)

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶²And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God,

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

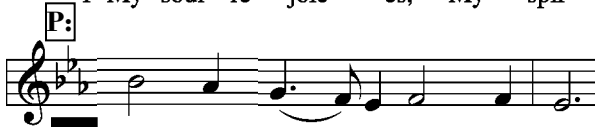
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

from LSB 933 st. 1



C: Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

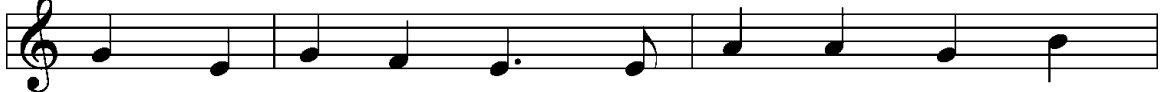
Carol

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 1, 14



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong.

⑤ Christmas Gospel (The Birth of Jesus; Shepherds) *Luke 2:1–20 (ESV)*

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



P: My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

from LSB 933 st. 1



C: Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

(6PM) Anthem

“Song of the Shepherds”

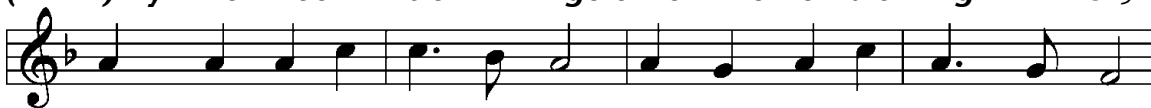
Adult Choir

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.
Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Born today is Christ the Lord!
Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.
Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Born today is Christ the Lord!

“Glory to God!” Hear the shepherds singing, “Glory to God!” The angels’ song still ringing!
“Glory to God!” all heav’n and earth reply! Glory to God! The King is born tonight!
God! Proclaim the Savior’s birth!

(11PM) Hymn of Proclamation Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

(6PM) Children's Message

Sermon

1 John 4:7-16

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

The offerings Bethel receives go to support the work of the Church—
here at Bethel, and regionally, nationally, and internationally through the missions
which we support through our budget.

Carols (sung while the Offering is collected)

Away in a Manger

LSB 364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Prayers We offer our thanks to God for His blessings and that we can return thanks with our offerings. We also lift up our prayers to God for immediate thanksgivings and needs.

Pastor prays then leads into this printed prayer. . .

Almighty and everlasting God, You caused Your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed virgin Mary for our salvation. Bless our keeping of this Christmastide, remembering the wonders of that sacred birth, so that we may ponder and adore the mystery of His holy incarnation and may joyfully partake in His divine grace unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

Lighting of the Candles

(The Pastor lights the candles of the people at the center aisle who will pass the flame to the others in the row. Please turn the unlit candle sideways to receive the light; do not turn lit candles on their side. When all have received the light, the service continues with the liturgy.)

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, **C: the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, **C: and the day is almost over.**

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness **C: and illumine Your Church.**

Closing Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363, sts. 1-2

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,

Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Benediction

based on Micah 5:2-5a

P: Jesus now stands and shepherds his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And you, His flock, dwell secure in Him,

for now He is great to the ends of the earth. And He is your peace.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and always watch over you. **C: Amen.**

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363, st. 3

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.

What Would Happen If You Told the Pastor?

If you come to me and confess your sin of _____,
I will listen.

I may ask why, what led to this,
to see if you understand
the nature of the temptation and consequences.

I will affirm God's Law.

I will APPLY GOD'S FORGIVENESS directly to you.

I will pray for you.

I will offer a blessing for you from God.

I will ask how I can
support, encourage, and hold you accountable.

I will point you towards the work of the Holy Spirit in you
for your transformation day by day.

If you come to me and express your frustration or fear or
confusion or what you think might be an error in our ministry,
I will listen.

I will admit to my own failures and seek your forgiveness.

I will affirm God's Law.

I will affirm God's Gospel.

We will pray together, asking for God's blessing on us
as the Lord calls us to be on His mission together.

I will celebrate that we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor Ben Squires—224-419-5519 (cell) pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Acknowledgments

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Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study January 7—March 18 9:30-10:30AM

with Pastor Squires

What does it mean to have a spiritual conversation?

One of the goals of Bethel is to encourage one another to have **spiritual conversations** with people in our day-to-day lives—family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, schoolmates, etc. But what does it mean to have a spiritual conversation? How do we even start?

We went through “The Arts of Spiritual Conversation” back in 2016, and the result was groundbreaking for many participants. To realize that God can use us with these basic friendship skills as a way to encourage others in the Gospel.

So we’re going back to review and learn even more. Jump in with us on Sundays to learn “The Arts”. We start with an short introduction video each week, and then we split up into small discussion tables hosted by folks from the congregation. You can join at any time and experience where God may leading you.

the **arts** of spiritual conversations



We thank the following for beautifying our worship areas with poinsettias.

Norman Balliet - to the glory of God;

Sheila Bunnell - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

***Morrie & Carol Cook - (3 plants) in memory of daughter Hannah,
parents Irene Luhrsen, Morrie & Marge Cook;***

Ralph & Donna Danielsen – in memory of parents;

Steve & Jann Freehling - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Sue Frendreis - in memory of husband Micheal Frendreis;

Paul & Linda Groh - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

***Mark & Kathy Hipsher - in memory of Mark's dad, Dick Hipsher,
brother, Ron Hipsher, and Kathy's sister Kim;***

Kazarian Family – in memory of Grace Gibson;

John & Karen Kozlik - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

***Cal & Maria Kube – in memory of Maria's parents, Max & Ivanka Kopac,
and in memory of Cal's parents, Edwin & Beulah Kube;***

Chris Mason & Sue Walker – (2 plants) in memory of mother, Christine Roberts;

Bill & Lynda Oesterreich - to the glory of God;

***Gayle & Dave Olson - (4 plants) in memory of Gayle's sister & parents,
Dave's grandparents, in appreciation of Gayle's brothers and their wives, and
to the glory of God;***

***Ronald & Deborah Olson - in memory of Sylvin & Adelyn Olson and
Elmer & Marge Frank;***

***Rasmussen, Souza, & Kazarian Families - in memory of William,
Alice & Mark Souza;***

Lance & Pat Rasmussen – Evelyn & Art Rasmussen;

Bill & Midge Ratzburg - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Jose & Claudine Rayos - in memory of Matthew & Patricia Koller;

***David & Cheryl Ross - (3 plants) in memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings, and
Jean Ross, and in appreciation of Carol & Morrie Cook;***

Muriel & Sue Schmidtke – in memory of Ted Schmidtke;

Bill & Kathy Schwartz – (2 plants) in memory of Bill and Kathy's mothers;

Ted & Margie Tatgenhorst - to the glory of God;

Dawn Werfelmann - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Ziegler Family - to the glory of God.

