

**AT THE BIRTH  
OF CHRIST  
WE ALL  
WONDER**

explore**God**.com

# **Christmas Eve 2018**

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***BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL***

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

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## ***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

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### ***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.

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### ***SERVING TODAY AT 6:00 P.M.***

**Elder:** JJ Jones

**Asst Elder:** Mike Bandman

**Acolyte:** Kelsi Mulley, Mae Anderson

**Ushers:** John Schultz, Scott Gutzke

**Lay Readers:** Mike Bandman, Sue Bandman, Jude Squires

**Greeters:** The Kreamer Family, The Mulley Family

### ***SERVING TODAY AT 11:00 P.M.***

**Elder:** Bob Souza

**Comm. Elder:** **Open**

**Acolyte:** Lily Freehling, Cameron Fleming

**Usher:** Don Heidlauf, **Open**

**Lay Readers:** Bob Souza, Joanne Heidlauf, Tony Young

**Greeters:** The Freehling Family, The Fleming Family

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***POINSETTIA DONATIONS ARE LISTED ON PAGE 20.***

## ***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**

### **“Bethlehem Wind”**

**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.

*Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, over the hills and the valleys.*

*Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, God’s promise of love and salvation.*

*Blow, blow, Spirit of Truth, carry the news of a Saviour.*

*Blow, blow, Spirit of God, preparing the world for God’s Son.*

*Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, carry the song of the angels.*

*Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, move through the hearts of the nations.*

*Blow, blow, Spirit of Hope, scatter the leaves of our sorrow.*

*Blow, blow, Spirit of God, warm the whole world with your love.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

### **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.*



**Overture Hymn**

**Once in Royal David's City**

LSB 376 sts. 1-3

Called an overture hymn because it tells the whole story which we'll hear in God's Word tonight.



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.

**Versicles (Scripture Sentences) for Christmas Eve**

**Isaiah 11:1-5 (ESV)**

P: <sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

**C: A little child shall lead us.**

**And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him.**

P: He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
 or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
 and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
 and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

C: *A little child shall lead us.*  
*And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him.*

**Overture Hymn (continued)      Once in Royal David's City** LSB 376 sts. 4-5

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
 leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
 With the oxen standing by  
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
 Set at God's right hand on high.  
 Then like stars His children, crowned,  
 All in white, His praise will sound!

***(continued) Versicles for Christmas Eve***

***Isaiah 11: (ESV)***

P: <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

**C: *A little child shall lead us.***  
***And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him.***

P: <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.  
<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples  
—of him shall the nations inquire, and his dwelling place shall be glorious.

**C: *A little child shall lead us.***  
***And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon 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.**

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### ***Acknowledgments***

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**Magnificat ("Magnify"—Mary's Song)**

**My Soul Rejoices**

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

① **Christmas Gospel (Birth of Jesus Foretold)**

**Luke 1:26–38 (ESV)**

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

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>And 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And 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—



**G:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1

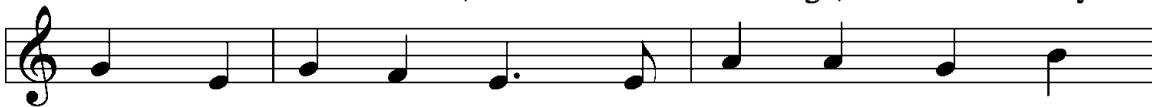
Carol

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 1-3



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.

② Christmas Gospel (Mary Visits Elizabeth; Magnificat) Luke 1:39-56 (ESV)

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

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

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

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

<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

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

<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

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

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.



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



**G:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1

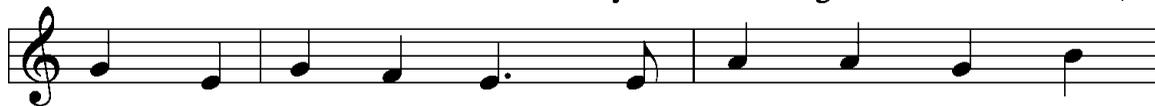
### Carol

### From East to West

LSB 385 sts. 1, 3; 358 sts. 8, 14, 15



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry  
3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom  
in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.  
yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me.

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

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:

### ③ Christmas Gospel (The Birth of John the Baptist; Zechariah's Song)

**Luke 1:57-58, 59b-64, 67, 68-80 (ESV)**

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>... And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup>but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." <sup>61</sup>And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." <sup>62</sup>And they made signs to his father [who could not speak because he doubted God], inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup>And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup>And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.

<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us;

<sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

<sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,

might serve him without fear,

<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

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

<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,

<sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God,

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

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



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



**G:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1

**(6PM) Anthem**

**“Still, Still, Still”**

**Adult Choir**

Still, still, still, thy heart with joy I'd fill.  
I'd sing thee a song and watch by thy manger,  
Guard thee from harm and keep thee from danger.  
Still, still, still, thy heart with joy I'd fill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the oxen and the sheep.  
The shepherds come to see thy glory,  
Angels bend low to tell thy story.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the oxen and the sheep.

Still, still, still, within thy holy will.  
To thee, great God, my voice I'd raise,  
With awe and wonder sing thy praise.  
Still, still, still, within thy holy will.

**④ Christmas Gospel (The Birth of Jesus; Shepherds) Luke 2:1–20 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And 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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Continues 

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And 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—

**C:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1

**(6PM) Anthem**

**“Run to Bethlehem”**

**Adult Choir**

*Shepherds watching over sheep by night witnessed an extraordinary sight.  
Angels from the realms of glory shared a most amazing story.  
Hurry, shepherd, run to Bethlehem.*

*Morning stars proclaim the holy birth. Angels sing the news of peace on earth.  
Peace and hope and joy he’s bringing, hear the heavenly voices singing.  
Hurry, shepherd, run to Bethlehem.*

*Run to Bethlehem and bring praises to the newborn King.  
Fall down on your knees and worship Him.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, all of earth and heaven ring.  
Hurry, shepherd, run to Bethlehem.*

*What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*Run to Bethlehem and bring praises to the newborn King.  
Fall down on your knees and worship Him.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, all of earth and heaven ring.  
Hurry, shepherd, run to Bethlehem.*



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,  
 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 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.  
 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!"

**(6PM) Children's Message**

**Sermon**

**Isaiah 11:1-6**

**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)

#### **What Child Is This**

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

## Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367 sts. 1, ref, 2, 5

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,  
all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing  
Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.  
*Refrain*  
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;  
Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

### 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.



## **Preparing to Explore God!**

[www.exploreGod.com/chicago](http://www.exploreGod.com/chicago)

*In January-February 2019, Bethel will join with churches across Chicagoland to focus on **7 Big Questions** for a sermon series and discussion groups in each of our congregations & in the community.*

### **The goal?**

*Help people in our communities have safe places to explore what it means to believe in God. The sermons will examine these questions through the Bible, but the discussion groups are designed to be safe places where people of all backgrounds can share their thoughts, hear from others, and ultimately consider these questions from the perspective of Jesus Christ.*

### **How can you get involved?**

- *Pray. Pray that God will use this series across Chicagoland to lead many people to consider or reconsider faith in Jesus.*
- *Join us for one of our training sessions in December (see below).*
- *Attend Sunday worship in January-February beginning January 13 and invite a friend or family member to join you for this series. You could say something like, "I know you haven't been interested in attending church in the past, but I wonder if you'd be my guest for this really intriguing series."*
- *Participate in the discussion groups which will be held as part of Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study, Middle School & High School Sunday School, and more.*
- *Participate in one of the public discussion groups that Pastor, Katrina, and others will be planning. More info to come.*
- *Ask Pastor or Katrina about how to use this series to host your own discussion group with your friends, family, or neighbors. A group can be as small as 2 people or could be larger like 12 people. We'll help you know how to host the discussion.*



## ***Thank You for Beautifying our Worship Areas with Poinsettias***

**Chad & Becky Anderson** – to the glory of God;

**Joan Blasko** – (2 plants) in memory of parents Elizabeth & Edward Yarusinsky and to the glory of God;

**Susan Boardman** – (2 plants) in appreciation of Pastor Squires;

**Sheila & Stephanie Bunnell** – (2 plants) to the glory of God;

**Matt & Michelle Chudy** – (2 plants) in memory of Paul Myrdal;

**Ralph & Donna Danielsen** – in memory of their parents;

**Jim Franz** – in memory of his father, sister and brother;

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

**Paul & Linda Groh** – (2 plants) in appreciation of family and friends;

**Nick & Alicia Kazarian** – in memory of Grace Gibson;

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

**Maria Kube** – (3 plants) in memory of Maria's parents Max & Ivanka Kopac, Cal's parents Edwin & Beulah Kube, and husband Calvin;

**Bill & Lynda Oesterreich** – to the glory of God;

**Eugenie Onepre** – to the glory of God;

**Rasmussen, Souza, & Kazarian Families** – (3 plants) in memory of William, Alice and Mark Souza;

**Lance & Pat Rasmussen** – in memory of Evelyn & Art Rasmussen;

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

**Jose & Claudine Rayos** – to the glory of God;

**David & Cheryl Ross** – (3 plants) in memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings;

**Tom & Marilyn Robinson** – to the glory of God;

**Muriel & Sue Schmidtke** – (2 plants) in memory of Ted & Steven Schmidtke;

**Bill & Kathy Schwartz** – (2 plants) in memory of their mothers Evelyn Schwartz and Ruth Grandt;

**Ted & Margie Tatgenhorst** – to the glory of God;

**Dawn Werfelmann** – (7 plants) to the glory of God