

**PRAY
OVER**

2023

**BETHEL • COMMUNITY
WORLD • YOU**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Praying Over the New Year

P: Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth.

We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears,
new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses.

Because you are a God of hope,
we know that you create all the possibilities of the future.

Because you are a God of love,
we know that you forgive all the sins of the past.

Because you are the God of our faith,
we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise,
we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise,
and we serve and bless you. **C: Amen.**

Opening Praise

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

LSB 391

Re - joyce, re - joyce this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -
to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from
on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!
My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er
For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Invocation and Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 92)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: O Lord, it does us good to give you thanks,

C: **to fill our lungs with the name of the Most High,**

P: To start the morning off with good news of your love,

C: **and to close the day with thanks for your faithfulness,**

P: You made us find joy in what you have done, O LORD.

C: **We will sing joyfully about the works of your hands.**

P: How spectacular are your works, O LORD!

C: **How very deep are your thoughts!**

Confession and Absolution (Based on Isaiah 55 and Psalm 130)

P: The Lord's thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways the Lord's ways.

Seek the Lord while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

let the sinners abandon their ways,

and the unrighteous turn away from their thoughts;

Return to the Lord, for he will have compassion on you,

Return to our God, for he will forgive generously.

C: **Yes, let us return to the Lord and confess our sin.**

P: Out of the pit we call you, Lord;

C: **please, Lord, hear us;**

P: Though our voices are faint let them reach your ears

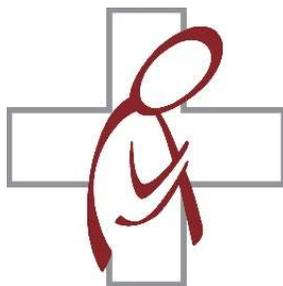
C: **and touch your heart of mercy.**

P: Lord, if you keep a tally of all our sins,

C: **then who could survive?**

P: But Lord, you have the power to forgive;

C: **So we worship and honor you.**



P: His word is our only hope;

C: We wait on the Lord, we wait in our souls,

P: eager as any watchman waits for the morning.

(Silence for reflection on personal sins and need for forgiveness).

P: You wait for the Lord, because his love for you will never run out,
and because he has the power to set you free;

Only he will save you from your sins,

Only he has sent his son to die for you

and rise again to give you new life.

Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Introit for New Year's Day

Psalm 98:1-3; antiphon (repeated verse): Psalm 124:8

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

P: The LORD has made known his salvation;

C: he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

***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.***

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: who made heaven and earth. Amen.

Reading from Paul's 1st Letter to Timothy

1 Timothy 2:1-8 (ESV)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher

of the Gentiles in faith and truth. ⁸ I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

In Holy Conversation

LSB 772; tune 915



1 In ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion We speak to God in prayer,
2 These ho - ly con - ver - sa - tions Be - gin in child-like ways;
3 As ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion, In si - lence or by word,



And at His in - vi - ta - tion Our deep - est thoughts we share.
We bring our sup - pli - ca - tions And words of thanks and praise.
In ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion Through Je - sus, we are heard.

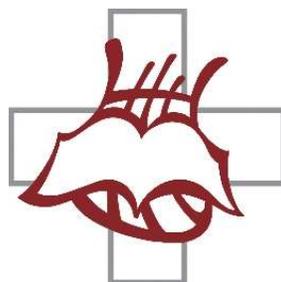


We come, His will o - bey - ing, As chil - dren bring - ing needs;
With care our Fa - ther lis - tens To ev - 'ry thought ex - pressed,
So let us pray se - cure - ly, Ex - press - ing hopes and fears



And to sup - port our pray - ing, His Spir - it in - ter - cedes.
Then an - swers our pe - ti - tions In ways He knows are best.
With con - fi - dence that sure - ly Our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

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2023

Praying Over the New Year

****The congregation will share in reading aloud these prayers for 2023.****

****If you are willing, please read aloud the next prayer.****

- As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.
- O God, your days are without beginning and without end. We dedicate this coming year to you.
- Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.
- Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.
- Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
- Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
- May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,
- A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
- A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
- A time for growing in Your ways and growing as disciples.
- Come, Holy Spirit, Be with us today and always.
- O Lord, you have mercy on all. Take away our sins, and mercifully kindle in us the fire of your Holy Spirit.
- Take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh, hearts to love and adore you, hearts to delight in you, to follow and to enjoy you.

- Give us such prosperity as you know is good for us, and make us abound in doing whatever is pleasing to you
- Empower us to release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. And thank You, Jesus, that you have freed us from chains.
- Hear the prayers of your Church, that we may joyfully serve you here, and see your glorious presence in all its joy in the life to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

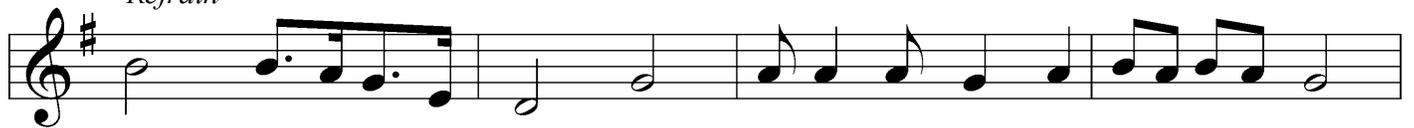
ALL: Amen.

Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



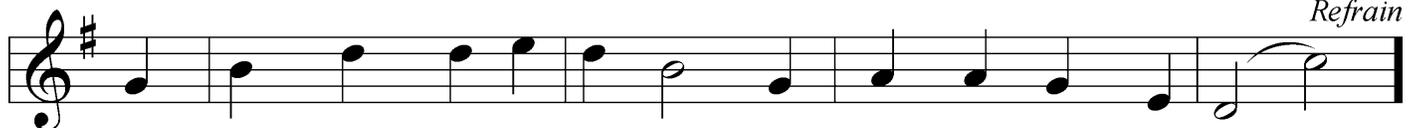
Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

BETHEL

Praying Over Our Congregation

****Pastor will read/explain each part of the congregation’s mission language.****

****He will then take specific prayer requests related to that part of our mission, and then offer that prayer to God.****

Congregational Goals

Discipleship

At Bethel, our mission is to help people be Disciples—life-long learners & followers of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship means God awakening Disciples from head knowledge of the faith to “heart life”.



Care in Community

provide for people’s physical and emotional needs through direct action; work in cooperation with other churches, missions, and agencies; build a network that will provide resources for people; direct assistance and build a supportive relationship, not just short-term help.

Spiritual Conversations

talking about spiritual things that are the source and foundation for life, values, identity and actions; build relationships and friendships that include these conversations.





Leadership

Bethel is organized in a way to empower people to serve the Lord, lead the congregation in mission, and seek the Holy Spirit's guiding. This leadership includes the Governing Board, the Board of Elders, Preschool Board & Staff, other boards & teams, and staff.

Our Framework

for Life Together as Church

- *To PRAY is to seek God's Word which creates, builds, and refreshes our faith.*
- *To EAT is to develop authentic friendships with the people around us, to share life with them.*
- *To LOVE is to look for opportunities to have deeply personal, spiritual conversation with our friends.*



PRAY: Building up people in faith and mission

Anything in the life of the congregation that is meant to help people to grow in their faith... worship, Sunday School, Bible studies, new discipleship courses, youth ministry, Confirmation...along with all of the support components to making those things happen...leadership, music, choir, board meetings, property improvements.

EAT: Building relationships with others

Anything in the life of the congregation that leads to current disciples getting to know other disciples better, or leads to disciples to meet and grow in friendship with those not currently



following Jesus. It is the congregation encouraging members to know one another; it is the congregation making sure that its members—even leaders—have time to spend in their day-to-day circles so they can build those outside friendships.

LOVE: Building towards

intentional, personal, spiritual conversations

Individual disciples talking to other disciples about what is happening in their personal experience of God. Individual disciples making the intentional effort to ask their fellow disciples about their “heart life.” This is discipleship huddles, pastoral care, Elders reaching out, members seeking out missing members, Christians accountable to one another. This is also individual disciples looking for opportunities to speak of spiritual things with their friends who do not already know Jesus, are distant from Him, or are seeking answers for their faith questions. This is the congregation creating conversation spaces for spiritual seekers; this is our members spending time in their “neighborhoods” and being encouraged to ask spiritual questions.

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

COMMUNITY



Praying Over Our Community

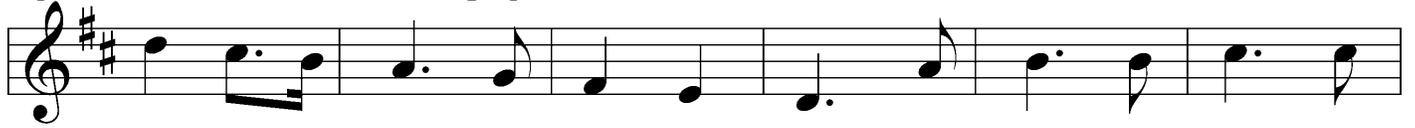
**Use the handout to help you think about specific parts of our community that need prayer. They can be very specific (e.g.: Waukegan Police Department) or more general (e.g.: area police departments).

**Pastor will ask people to share their requests, and then offer a brief prayer after each.

Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

WORLD



INDIA



UKRAINE



TANZANIA



UGANDA

Praying Over the World **Cards with different countries on them are distributed throughout the pews. Choose one or two that you know something about and write down a prayer request on the back of the card.

OR if a country that is on your heart isn't in your pew, grab a blank card and write down a country name & the prayer request.

Pastor will then gather the cards and offer some of these prayers aloud.

YOU



Praying Over You

****If you desire, come forward and kneel (or stand) at the communion rail, and Pastor will pray over you.**

****He can offer a general prayer of blessing.**

****OR if you have something specific, please let him know briefly, and he can pray based on this.**

****As others come forward for prayer, please use this time for silent prayer in the pews, especially lifting up those around you.**

When all who desire have been prayed over, we will continue. . .

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.

Benediction (Based on Psalm 67 and Numbers 6)

P: God is good to us, he is blessing us,

C: *The face of God is shining down on us,*

P: Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C: *Let all the peoples praise You.*

P: Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

C: *God, our own God, shall bless us.*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367 sts. 1-2,4-5



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
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
△ 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,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - 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.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2, 4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

Acknowledgements

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Opening prayer by Maren C. Tirabassi (<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/new-years-prayer-all-things-new.html>)

2023 prayers adapted from:

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/new-years-prayers>

<https://www.praywithme.com/new-year-prayers-2021.html>

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/new-years-worship-resource-index.html>

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 10:00PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

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

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

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

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

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

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

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.

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

INTRODUCTION / RE-INTRODUCTION TO THE FAITH

TUESDAYS - 7:30-8:30PM

JANUARY 10, 17, 24, & 31

Wondering why people follow Jesus?

OR grew up in the Church but finding your way back?

OR have a friend who wants to know more?

Join Pastor Squires for these discussion sessions where he'll explain the basics of the faith, while leaving plenty of room for your questions as you explore Christianity.



Scan the QR Code to sign up.

OR contact Pastor for more info: pastor@bethelgurnee.org - 847-244-9647