

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

(*) The asterisk is to indicate that those who are able are invited to stand.
As the prelude begins, please take your seat and center yourself for worship.

**There are large print hymnals available for those who need one.
Please ask an usher to bring you one.

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* arr. G.F. Handel

WE PRAISE GOD

Opening Prayer

O God our Father, you have brought us again to this glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Gordon Family

*Expression of Faith (based on Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

We believe we are a people walking in darkness who have seen a great light in the birth of Jesus Christ. We believe that long ago the child was born for each of us, and the government will be upon His shoulders. We believe His name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. We believe in His greatness and His peace, there will be no end. We believe He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forevermore. We believe the zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Medley of Carols** *Joy to the World* (see insert)
Angels We Have Heard on High (see insert)
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! (see insert)

Children's Moment Rev. Julie Belman

As children return to their seats, please sing the chorus of:

Jesus Loves Me

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me. The bible tells me so.

Bethel Ministers and Church Staff

J.B. Barnett, Custodian
Rev. Julie Belman, Senior Minister
Carol Burger, Preschool Director
Greg Cone, Custodian Assistant
Sheryl L. Jones, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Reggie Rowell, Minister of Congregational Care
Bill Webb, Organist / Choir Director

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary

Thank you to the following for providing poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary.
Please feel free to take your poinsettia with you after the service today.

Jean and Luby Pulley - Given in honor of our children

Nola Armstrong and Hall Gladden - Given in loving memory of Todd Armstrong
and in loving honor of Carolyn Armstrong

Kathryn Emery - Given in honor of Joshua N. Funderburk and Heath Scott
Bartlett

Charles and Ae Byrn - Given to the glory of God

Carrie McDonald - Given in memory of Gerald McDonald and Peggy Rice
Poppiti

Margie Jackson - Given in memory of Horace Jackson and Todd Armstrong

Fred and Kate Brown - Given in memory of Sandra Wayson and in honor of
Velma Neeley

Bill and Gail Lucas - Given in memory of Hugh and Virginia Edwards, and John
and Gloria Lucas; and in honor of Bill and Gail Lucas

Janis Lawther - Given in memory of Bill Lawther

Sue and Peggy Grant - Given in memory of Lib and Jim Grant (parents), and
Bill Grant (brother)

Anna Cope - Given in honor of God and in memory of Larry Cope

Ron and Arnette Jordan - Given in honor of Velma Neeley and our Bethel
friends

Tammy Caruk - Given in memory of Lucinda Miller

Carolyn Armstrong - Given in memory of Sandra Wayson and in honor of
Margie Jackson

Lucy, Margaret and Ronald Gordon - Given in memory of Ronald L. Gordon

Verta and Doug Ingbretsen - Given in memory of Greg Ingbretsen

Iva Dell Griffin - Given to the glory of God and in memory of my parents

Frank and Sally Hafner - Given in memory of Joey Turner, and in honor of Tripp
and Laurie, Jonathan and Mathew, Brian and Brenda

Laura Wood and Family - Given in memory of Ovella Clark Genoble

Velma H. Neeley - Given in honor of Kate and Fred Brown

Serving the Congregation Today

Greeters: Tom Elliott and Fred Brown

Altar Stewards: Kimberly Wilson, Karen Stewart, and Dave Barnes

Livestream: Travis Belman and Karen Furr

Offering Counters: Dianna Elliott and Kimberly Wilson

Special Prayers for Bethel Friends and Family (in alphabetical order)

In Hospitals, Assisted Living, Rehab:

Carolyn Bowers (Watercrest Columbia)

Nancy Burkhalter (Atria)

Connie Fowke (NHC)

Bill and Sylvia Hulbert (Laurel Crest)

Mary Kirby (TerraBella Windsor Lake)

Mac Marshall (NHC)

Frances May (Generations of Irmo)

Mary Ott (Pruitt Ridgeway)

Sarah Parker (Still Hopes)

Carmen Pool (Rice Estates)

Adelyn Price (Still Hopes)

Roberta Yount (Atria)

At home: Hannah Andrews (Janet Roberts' great-granddaughter)

Eugene and Joyce Appleman, JB Barnett, Ann Christopher (Julie Narang's
mother), Sara Derrick, Jo Dowdey, Margie Jackson, Ronald Jordan, Bonnie
Lutz, Margaret Marshall, Rosa Nichols, Brenda Shealy, Sibyl Staples, Verlon
Stone, Jean Tolbert, and Brenda Turner

Out-of-Town: Irene Boyd, Josh Funderburk (Kathryn Emery's son), Wayne
Hairfield (Debbie Carter's relative), Jake Lass (Debbie Carter's relative), Pat and
Bethany Naser, Morgan Varn (Debbie Carter's relative), Joshua Furr (Karen
Furr's son, deployed to Syria), Elliott Lakin (Irene Boyd's great-grandson)

The families of: Helen Overstreet, Joyce Varn, Joey Turner, Harry Parker, Russ
Pruett, David Hinze, Lucinda Miller, Fran Love, Ronald Gordon, Sandra Wayson,
Margaret Alley McGregor and Sarah Walker

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..." Matthew 19:14

*We welcome all persons in worship and rejoice in the sounds of
God's little blessings in our sanctuary! A room is available in the back
of the sanctuary for crying babies, nursing or pumping mothers to use
at any time.*

Offertory *In dulci jubilo* M. Dupré

*Doxology *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Christmas Prayer

*Medley of Carols
Good Christian Friends Rejoice! (see insert)

The First Noel (see insert)

Message in Song *O Holy Night* A. Adam
Elizabeth Keels, soloist

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Luke 2:1-20
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon *The Mess of Christmas* Rev. Julie Belman

WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

The Lighting of the Candles
(As *Silent Night* is sung, the lights will be dimmed, and the minister will light a candle from the Christ candle. The minister then lights the candles of the candle lighters, who will light the candle of the first worshipper in each pew, and the light will be passed down from worshipper to worshipper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright while the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted. Before leaving the pews, worshippers are requested to extinguish their candles.)

*UMH #239 *Silent Night, Holy Night (see insert)* Mohr/Gruber

*Benediction

*Postlude *He Is Born* French Carol

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday—9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone number—803-787-3058

Publication Submission Deadlines

The deadline for the *Bulletin* is 3:00 pm on the preceding Tuesday.
The deadline for the *Messenger* is 9:00 am on the 3rd Monday of month.
Please contact the church office as soon as possible to get your upcoming events on the calendar. Rooms are scheduled on a first-come basis.

Upcoming Events at Bethel

Saturday, December 24

12:00 Christmas Eve Service with Communion (S)

06:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Carols (S)

Sunday, December 25

10:00 Christmas Day Worship (S)

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed for Christmas

Saturday, December 31

10:30 Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Sunday, January 1

09:45 Children, Youth, and Adult Sunday School (EB)

11:00 Traditional Worship Service with Communion (S / livestream on YouTube)

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed for New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 4

Preschool Returns from Winter Break
09:30 Preschool Chapel (S)

Saturday, January 7

10:30 Choir Rehearsal (CR)

CR - Conference Room
EB - Education Building
PAB - Pool Activities Building
S - Sanctuary
BPL - Back Parking Lot

Ways to Connect

Website: www.bethelmethodistcolumbia.com

Facebook: [bethelmethodistcolumbia](https://www.facebook.com/bethelmethodistcolumbia)

Youtube: [Bethel UMC Columbia](https://www.youtube.com/BethelUMCColumbia)

Instagram: [@wearebethelunited](https://www.instagram.com/wearebethelunited)

Hashtag: [#wearebethelunited](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/wearebethelunited)

Email: office@bethelmethodistcolumbia.com

Telephone: 803-787-3058



KNOWING, LOVING, SERVING
...so the world will experience Christ's love!



Saturday, December 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.
The Color is White.

Welcome!

We are so glad you decided to join us for worship. Our hope is that you will experience the love of Jesus Christ while you are among us and join us in sharing God's Good News with the world. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become part of the Bethel Church family.