

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 *How Great My Joy* Hugo Jüngst

WE PRAISE GOD

Call to Worship *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 15th c. French melody

Opening Prayer

*UMH #196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Hyfrydol

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Laura, Cameron and Wyatt Wood

Prayer

Jesus Christ, as we light these candles and wait for your coming, help us to shine just as brightly with your peace. We want to be your light in the darkness for all who need to know the gift of your holy presence. Help us to keep our hearts focused on you. We pray in your most holy name. Amen.

Confession and Pardon (see insert)

Children's Moment Debbie Carter

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.

Anthem *And the Stars Sang* Joseph Martin

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

Bethel Minister and Church Staff

J.B. Barnett, Custodian
Rev. Julie Belman, Senior Minister
Carol Burger, Preschool Director
Sheryl L. Jones, Administrative Assistant
Bill Webb, Organist / Choir Director

Visiting Buddies

The Visiting Buddies are planning to prepare Christmas gift bags for the shut-ins. They would greatly appreciate any monetary donations for this project.

Epworth Angel Christmas Tree

Thank you to everyone who has participated in getting gifts for the Epworth Children's Home. Today is the last day to turn in gifts. Please place your unwrapped gift under the tree in the narthex.

Todd Lutz Scholarship Fund

Each year the Committee for Bethel's Scholarship Fund has a fundraiser. For the last 29 years, this Fund has helped many of our high school graduates with their college finances. Our fundraiser will be December 10th from 9:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Anything made by hand will be appreciated! A special thank you to Louise Davis for taking on the Scholarship Fund! Please let Louise know if you have something to contribute to sell. Louise's phone number is (803) 834-2563. Thank you! Bonnie Lutz

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

If you would like to help beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas, please pick up an order form on the table in the narthex.

Painters Needed for Family Promise

I am writing to see if any of you know someone who likes to paint furniture and bring it back to life. Family Promise has a dresser and a kitchen table that are in good shape except that they need to be cleaned and painted. If you know someone who likes to do this sort of thing, please let me know. This is an opportunity for 2024. I will let FP know and they will send out an invitation when they set a date. Please email Bonnie Speas, bspeas@umcsc.org or call 803-727-8515. Thank you for your consideration!

Serving the Congregation Today

Acolyte(s): Micaela McDonald
Altar Stewards: Kimberly Wilson, Karen Stewart, Dave Barnes
Children's Moment: Debbie Carter
Greeters: Tom Elliott and Charles Byrn
Livestream: Travis Belman and Karen Furr
Offering Counters: Frank Hafner and Charles Byrn

Special Prayers for Bethel Friends and Family

(in alphabetical order)

In Hospitals, Assisted Living, Rehab:

Carolyn Bowers (Watercrest Columbia)
Nancy Burkhalter (Atria)
Sara Derrick (Atria)
Connie Fowke (NHC)
Bill and Sylvia Hulbert (Laurel Crest)
Mary Kirby (TerraBella Windsor Lake)
Frances May (Generations of Irmo)
Sarah Parker (Still Hopes)
Carmen Pool (Rice Estates)
Verlon Stone (Pruitt Health Blythewood)

At home: Eugene Appleman, Jo Dowdey, Eden Ellice Harper (Brenda Harper's granddaughter), Chris Huggins (friend of Carolyn Armstrong), Bonnie Lutz, Margaret Marshall, Rosa Nichols, Brenda Shealy, Donna Swygert (Velma Neeley's daughter) and Dan Toma

Out-of-Town: Irene Boyd, Josh Funderburk (Kathryn Emery's son), Iva Dell Griffin, Wayne Hairfield (Debbie Carter's relative), Anne Hynds, Jake Lass (Debbie Carter's relative), Pat and Bethany Naser, Morgan Varn (Debbie Carter's relative), Jackson Bell (Suzette Wilson's grandnephew at MUSC awaiting heart transplant) and Roberta Yount, and Morrie and Bessie Cruse (grandparents of preschool student)

The families of: Sarah Walker, Ron Jordan, Joyce Appleman, Sibyl Staples, Mac Marshall, Mary Ott, Jean Tolbert and Adelyn Price

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 at any time.

Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* M. Praetorius

*Gloria Patri
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

*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.***

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and Luke 1:46-55
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon *Releasing Control, Finding Joy* Rev. Julie Belman

Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Great Thanksgiving
(see insert)

The Breaking of the Bread, Offering of the Cup and Sharing in the Feast
At this time, you are invited to come up to the altar to receive the elements.
If you would prefer pre-packaged communion elements, please let one of the servers know. After receiving, please use the outer aisles to return to your pew.

The Prayer After Receiving
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

*UMH #206 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* K. Thomerson

*Benediction

*Postlude *Blessed Be the God of Israel* Hal Hopson

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

Sunday, December 3, 2023

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

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

02:00 *Experiencing God* Bible Study (PAB)

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 Rise and Shine with Lisa Smarr (PAB)

Wednesday, December 6

09:30 Preschool Chapel (S)

Thursday, December 7

09:30 Preschool Christmas Pageant (S)

10:00 Rise and Shine with Lisa Smarr (PAB)

06:00 Bible Study of the Gospels (PAB)

Saturday, December 9

08:30 United Methodist Men Breakfast (PAB)

10:30 Choir Rehearsal (CR)

02:00 Moms of Multiples Club Christmas Party (PAB)

Save the Date!

Fellowship Dinner
Sunday, Dec. 10th at 5:30 p.m.
Pool Activities Building

CR - Conference Room
EB - Education Building
NJ - New Journeys Room
PAB - Pool Activities Building
S - Sanctuary

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/wearebethelunited)
Email: office@bethelmethodistcolumbia.com
Telephone: 803-787-3058



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



Sunday, December 3, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent
The Color is Purple.

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.*