

**Bethany Memorial Church
(Disciples of Christ)
December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude
Welcome
Announcements**

Vicki NeCastro
Debra Hull

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

**MOMENT FOR MISSION
CALL TO WORSHIP**

Debra Hull

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – LOVE

Marci Mazza-Fredley
Abby Ayers, Noah Gill

"One Candle is Lit" (vs 4)

Come, wander where lion
and lamb gently play,
Where evil is banished
and faith takes the day,
A babe in a manger
to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

HYMN OF PRAISE: #160

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung;
Of Jesse's lineage coming
by faithful prophets sung;;
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;

With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love a-right
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Debra Hull

*Our Father/Mother 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.
P: And, also with you.

THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

JOYS AND CONCERNS PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Sharon Watkins

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Debra Hull

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ^{to} a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^{ed} will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Brenda Hart

SERMON

Rev. Watkins

WE PARTAKE AT GOD'S HOLY TABLE

CALL TO OFFERING

Debra Hull

DOXOLOGY AND OFFERING PRAYER

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.*

COMMUNION INVITATION

Helen Moren

THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER OF THE ELDER

Helen Moren

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

FELLOWSHIP OF COMMUNION

Please partake of the bread and cup – one in the Spirit.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: #148 vv 1-2

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Rev. Watkins
Vicki NeCastro

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Minister	Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
Liturgist	Debra Hull
Elder	Helen Moren
Music	Vicki NeCastro
	Brenda Hart
Videographer	Connie McVicar
Advent Candle	College Students Marci, Abby, and Noah

PRAYER LIST

Ashley Pietrangelo, niece of Penny Tittle
Mark and Donna Sutherland, brother and sister-in-law of Pat Sutherland
All those affected by Covid-19 in our community and elsewhere

Jean McVicar, mother-in-law of Connie McVicar
Brittany Smurthwaite, daughter of Susan Smurthwaite
Chris Smurthwaite
Grandchildren of Susan Smurthwaite
Shana Hatzopoulos and Nicolas Hatzopoulos
Lynn Cowell, brother of Shirley Kemp
Nancy Pietrangelo (sister of Penny Tittle)
Jackie Andrews, Robert and Megan and Regan Andrews.
Mike Gostlin, son-in-law of Larry and Carol Grimes (husband to Becca)
Jeanne Cobb
David Gnatek (brother-in-law of Holly Hillgardner)
Tammy Ritchea
Ruth Tye, Jeannie Sarg Tye, and Jay Tye
Jack Hoffman
Ned George (father of David) and family
Perry Jones, Jr.
Gary and Vonnie Larson
Jeffrey Yost
Sharon Poyneer (sister of Vonnie Larson)
Caden Knisley
Ellen Sanford
Mary Jane Jackson
Holly, Frank, and Sharley Hillgardner
Donna Norman (Becky Ayers' sister)
Dottie Smith
Linda Owens Walter

BMC Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm Thursday December 24
Facebook Live

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BMC is collecting for the DOC **Christmas Offering** today. If you would like to give, checks can be mailed to the church, dropped off at the church (call first) or slipped under the front door. In addition, payment can be made through the church web page. (www.bmcwv.org). The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries.

Bible Study will take place **Monday, December 21, at 7:15** on ZOOM. Connie and Jan will lead the discussion and will focus on the following scripture.

Luke 2:22-40

Isaiah 61:10 through 62:3

Galatians 4:4-7

All those who have been attending will receive a ZOOM invitation. If you would like to join in, let the church office know and you will be sent a ZOOM invitation. You are welcome to join!

The "**Hat, Mittens, Gloves and Scarves**" tree is starting to look a lot less bare than it did last week! We thank you for your donations thus far. There is still plenty of room on the tree, so if you have yet to contribute but would like to, contact the church office to make arrangements. If necessary, someone will come to your porch and pick them up. Help keep disadvantaged residents of Brooke County a little warmer this year.

Are you, or anyone you know, in need of a **Christmas food box** this year? Please contact the church office by noon on Sunday, December 20 if you know of anyone.

Mid-Week Prayer services continue. For those of you on the BMC email list, you will receive an email with the Zoom invitation and are welcome to join. If you would like a link texted to you, please contact the church office. Prayer meetings are at 6:30 on Thursday evenings. If you have a prayer request, contact the church office. There will be no prayer meeting on Christmas Eve.

Food Pantry – Thank you to those who have supported BMC's food pantry. The need is never-ending, so we invite you to drop off nonperishable food items as you wish.

There are students at Bethany College who are likely to return in January without appropriate outer wear. **The Dean of Students office is asking for donations of new, warm, winter coats, etc. to help needy students.** Coats can be dropped off at Student Life or hung on the rack outside of student life. New coats, gloves, and hats in all sizes are welcome. If you prefer, items can be dropped off at the church and we will deliver them to the Student Life office. Call the church office if you would like to make arrangements for your donations.

Due to the "red zone" status of Brooke County, **Bethany Memorial Church is no longer open for in-house worship on Sunday mornings.** Please join us on Facebook Live at 10:45 am each Sunday for services.