

# BETHLEHEM COVENANT CHURCH

## Third Sunday in Advent

December 13th, 2020

### Today at Bethlehem

9:30 AM—Worship Service, live & online  
10:45 AM—Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12), at church  
11:00 AM—Adult Sunday School via Zoom; Join missionaries the Ekstrands!

## Announcements

- We've had to make the difficult decision to pre-record our Christmas Eve worship this year, thanks to COVID-19. The service will be pre-recorded and broadcast at 4 pm on Christmas Eve. Of course, it is then able to be viewed at any time thereafter that works best for you. Please watch the MIDWEEK CHECK and the weekly STAR for links.
- If you're missing the Lucia Fest, head over to the website to view an old recording and enjoy a taste of Sweden.

## Remember in Prayer

Prayer for healing—Julie Hinseth, Shirley Norman, Marian Ekstrand, Dale Hokanson, Marj Ramgren. Remember in prayer Jim Swanson, Sylvia Bacon, Jerry Johnson. Continue to pray for grace to navigate justice issues and promote racial righteousness in our communities. Pray for teachers, health-care workers, police and first-responders as they seek to serve. Pray for our country & our country's leaders. Pray for our Pastoral Search Committee, its prayer partners, and its effective identification of a gifted and godly pastoral candidate.

## Bethlehem Staff

Rev. Rick Mylander	Interim Co-Lead Pastor	rick@bethlehemcov.org
Rev. Erick Abramson	Interim Co-Lead Pastor	erick@bethlehemcov.org
Rev. Kari Dubord	Associate Pastor	kari@bethlehemcov.org
Lars Markson	Youth Ministry Director	lars@bethlehemcov.org
Christine O'Bert/ Whitney Markson	Office Staff	office@bethlehemcov.org
Dianne Jelle	Organist/Pianist	dianne@bethlehemcov.org
Ethan Murphy	Adult Choir Director	ethan@bethlehemcov.org
Cindy Bergstrom	Children's Choir Director	cindy@bethlehemcov.org
Jill Ravensborg	Child Care Director	jill@bethlehemkids.org

## Bethlehem Events This Week (Dec 14th–20th)

Tuesday—15th	All Day	Fasting & Prayer for our Pastoral Search Participate in any way God leads you
	6:30 PM	Gathering for Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday—16th	10:30 AM	Women's Bible Study via Zoom
	6:00 PM	Confirmation Class, live
	7:15 PM	High School Youth Group, live
Thursday—17th	10:30 AM	Bible Encounter via Zoom
Friday—18th	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study via Zoom
Sunday—20th	9:30 AM	Worship Service, live & online Fourth Sunday in Advent
	10:45 AM	Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12),live
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour & Fellowship via Zoom

**Pandemic Office Hours:** 10 AM—1PM Tuesday through Thursday

## Looking Ahead

December 24th at 4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship, online ONLY
Sunday, January 3rd	Special Harp Music at Sunday Worship

## 9:30 AM Combined Worship Service

### Gathering

Prelude,  
Christmas Carols and Hymns

Dianne Jelle, Pianist

Special Music,  
“Away in a Manger”

Ethan Murphy, Soloist  
arr. Sally DeFord

Welcome & Passing of the Peace

Pastor Rick Mylander

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle, including:

- **Scripture Reading: Psalm 126** Pastor Erick Abramson  
<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. <sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.  
<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negev. <sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.  
<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.
- **Opening Prayer** (in unison)  
Lord, here we are again, praying in faith, for joy. You gave us a reason for joy when you gave us the unimaginable gift of Jesus Christ. You came to dwell among us. You went to Calvary’s cross for us. You rose from the dead for us. You forgive us our sins and give us eternal life when we believe in you. The joy we seek is not a joy that comes from things here on earth, but from you. Flood our hearts with this joy this Advent 2020 as we think on the good news of Jesus’ birth, our King in whose name we pray, amen.

### Word

Scripture Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Miriam O’Bert

Children’s Message

Lars Markson

\*Hymn 130 Ethan Murphy, Dick and Sally Sundberg  
“Come, You People of the Promise”

Sermon – Isaiah 40:1-11

Pastor Kari Dubord

“A Prayer for Advent 3: Lord, Restore our Joy”

### Responding

Reflection and Silent Prayer

Offering and Response

\*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him laud: the babe, the son of Mary.

### Sending

\*Sending Hymn 146, “Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!”

\*Closing Prayer, Charge and Blessing

Postlude, “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!” arr. Burkhardt