

Second Sunday of Advent

*Indicates that all who are able are invited to stand.
Bold type invites the people to respond.
PH by hymns denotes the large hymnal &
STF is the blue soft sided hymnal

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude
Lighting the Candles and Ringing of the Bell
Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship:**
One: Children of God, what are we waiting for?
All: **We wait for peace where conflict rages, for gentleness where harshness prevails.**
One: We wait for swords to be reshaped into plows, for walls to crumble and bridges to rise.
All: **We wait ... longing for the Prince of Peace, who stills our storms and guides our feet.**

*Morning Prayer

*Hymn *While We Are Waiting, Come (verse 1)* Screen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today we light two candles, their light steady and sure against the dark. Hope burns beside peace, witnessing to God’s enduring promises. The glow spreads wider each week, reminding us that peace is possible, and God’s kingdom is drawing near.

We call this candle Hope. (*Light the first candle.*)
We call this candle Peace. (*Light the second candle.*)
Together they shine as signs of God’s faithfulness.

*Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* PH-9

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
O God of still waters and quiet strength, we confess how often our lives are restless.
Our hearts race, our hands grasp, our voices quicken with fear. Yet you breathe calm into chaos; you steady our steps on uneven ground. Grant us your peace, O Christ, not as the world gives, but as you alone provide.
(*Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.*)
...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Words of Peace
*Please turn to one another with a wave and a smile as you share God’s peace.
***Congregational Response** *Glory Be to the Father* PH-579

We Listen For God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 11:1-10
Reading ends: This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
One: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king’s son;
All: **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.**
One: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
All: **May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.**
One: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
All: **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**
One: And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

New Testament Lesson Romans 15:4-13
Reading ends: This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 3:1-12
Reading ends: This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Respond to God’s Word

***Hymn** *Comfort, Comfort You My People* PH-3

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord’s Prayer

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is truly right...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Words of Institution
We Share the Bread and Cup (all are welcome)
Prayer after Communion

Offering
Thank you for your gifts of financial support of Bethel's ministries which may be placed in the offering plate near the main entrance to the sanctuary. Please hold our ministries in your prayers as music is shared during this time.

***Congregational Response** *Doxology*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We Leave to Serve God

*Hymn *While We Are Waiting, Come* (verse 1&2) Screen

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

While We Are Waiting, Come (verse 3) Screen

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Rev. Lori Kleppe; Robin Bostrom, Lay Worship Leader; Sue Upedegraff, Musician

Pastor Kleppe would welcome visiting you in your home or at a coffee shop in town. Her contact information is 563-380-8187 or lori.kleppe@gmail.com

"Sanctuary Sips", a hospitality table, has been placed in the narthex. Please help yourself to a beverage which may be brought into the sanctuary.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Today, December 7

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship/the Lord's Supper
Fellowship following

Monday, December 8

9:30 a.m. Diaconate Potluck

Wednesday, December 10

1:30 p.m. Movie - Bad Faith

Next Sunday, December 14

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
Fellowship following
Session Meeting

Members and friends of Bethel who seek healing and wholeness in their lives are kept in prayer during worship. Today we are remembering – Cathy Bemiss, Teri Brockway, Don Durscher, Sarah Updegraff Murray, Kirk Bruso, baby McCoy, and Rose Marie Knight (Julie Larson's mom), Darwin Schrage and Mike Schroyer.

Stoney Brook - Kate Ewing, Kathy Meyer

Good Samaritan Center - Peggi Pape

Eastern Star Decorah – Doyle Gorden

Ossian Care Center – Cindy Barness

Maple Crest – Tex Heyer

Copper Creek – Sandy Schnor

Welcome to Worship at Bethel Presbyterian Church!

-The order of service is found in your bulletin and projected on the screen.

-An * shows the time when the congregation stands. If it is more comfortable to remain seated, please do so.

-Restrooms are found on each level of the church. An usher will help you find your way. Fully accessible restrooms are located in the basement.

-A nursery room is available but we welcome hearing the sound of small children.

-Communion is offered on most first Sundays of the month. All are welcome to receive the elements of the meal. An usher will invite you forward or servers may come to you in the pew.

-We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. If your schedule allows, please join us for a time of fellowship following the service.

You are invited to come and share your time and talents by joining the West Union Community Chorus in its 84th performance of Handel's Messiah. Rehearsals are at UMC Dec. 7, and 13. Performance will be Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m. at UMC.

Bethel Presbyterian Church invites you to join us for...

~ Christmas Eve in a Barn ~



December 24, 2025 @ 5:30pm

Rustic Chic Events Center

Join us for hearing the story of Jesus's birth, animals, singing carols, special music, and sharing the Light of Christ together.

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BETHEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A People and a Place where God is made Known



**Welcome to worship at
Bethel Presbyterian Church,
where everyone is welcome.**

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025**