

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful that you chose to spend this sacred night with us. Whether you come to Bethel on special occasions or attend every Sunday, we love that you are here tonight. It is such a gift to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, with you. Over the last year we have been reminded of the importance of community. We have been created to be in relationship with God and with each other. This was so important for us as humanity that God put on the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ to show us a more excellent way of doing life together. We experience the Incarnation, both of God-made-flesh and community-made-body, this night.

We also know that relationships are not always easy and life is never perfect. Mistakes are made and brokenness is experienced. Through it all, God's love never ends and God's forgiveness is readily available for those who seek it.

No matter where you find yourself in life this night, may the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate, be born yet again in your heart and may the Light of Christ burn throughout your life.

We look forward to being better together in 2023.

Blessings, Peace, and a very Merry Christmas,

*The Reverends Gray*

**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Friday: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

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Brad Gray <i>Executive Pastor</i>	Megan Gray <i>Pastor of Discipleship &amp; Belonging</i>	Chad Deetz <i>Youth Minister</i>	Adam Rollins <i>Youth Ministry Assistant</i>
Dale Fischer <i>Director of Music</i>	Jana Mathis <i>Director of Children's Ministries</i>	Jennifer Bartless <i>Children's Ministries Assistant</i>	Kristine Lee <i>Organist</i>



Invite. Grow. Send.

*To all who are weary and need rest; To all who are burdened and need relief; To all who are lonely and need friends; To all who are looking for something that only God can provide; To all who sin and need a Savior; To whosoever will come, Bethel UMC, the House of God, opens her doors, and in the name of Jesus Christ says,  
“Welcome!”*

*A Service of Candle Lighting  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2022*

Prelude Gilbert M. Martin

Greeting *“Joy to the World”*

\*Carol UMH 234  
*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Romansky family  
**O God, your light continues to shine in the darkness. May the light of Christ illuminate the path that leads us to love. For it is your perfect love that casts out all fear. Come Lord Jesus, Come. Amen.**

Carol Sing  
*“What Child is This” (verses 1 & 3)* UMH 219  
*“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verses 1 & 2)* UMH 230  
*“The First Noel” (verses 1 & 2)* UMH 245

Offering for the Bethlehem Center

Offertory arr. Tommee Profit  
*“We Three Kings”*  
Joe Locke and Jordan Shurburt

First Lesson

Carol Sing  
*“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (verses 1-3)* UMH 240  
*“Angels We Have Heard on High” (verses 1, 3, & 4)* UMH 238

Psalter Reading UMH 815  
*Psalm 96*

Special Music arr. Matthew Fischer  
*“Away in a Manger”*  
Andrew Fischer and Matthew “Spud” Fischer

Gospel Lesson Luke 2: 1-20

Special Music Adolphe Adam

*“O Holy Night”*  
Tracie Powell-Wilkin

Meditation

\*Lighting the Candles and Spreading the Light of Christ UMH 239

*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*  
We invite you to light your candles and lift them high as we sing *Silent Night*. As *Silent Night* finishes, we invite you to extinguish them for a time of silence.

\*Christmas Blessing

Postlude Pietro A. Yon  
*“Gesù Bambino”*

*\*Please stand if able*