

BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140
December 24, 2021 4:00p.m.
Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God
Christmas Eve

We Enter Into God's Presence

WELCOME

Merry Christmas Eve! We thank you for joining us to celebrate the birth of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship together allow for Christ to enter all of our hearts anew this year.

HYMN: B-41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1. 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!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!
Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, All glory in the highest!
Refrain

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. We light this candle for Hope. We light this candle for Peace. We light this candle for Joy. We light this candle for Love. We light this candle for Christ. Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (God with us).

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Sing to the Lord a new song;

P: sing to the Lord, all the earth!

L: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

P: tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

L: Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

P: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

P: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.

L: Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God, who is coming.

P: God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness, and the peoples with equity and truth. Praise the Lord!

We Hear God's Word Lessons and Carols

HYMN: B-36

"In the Bleak Midwinter" (vs. 1 & 4)

1 In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,

In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

4 What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him; Give my heart.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

HYMN: B-44 **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** (vs. 1&4)

1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see they lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

SECOND LESSON **Genesis 22:15-18**

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

HYMN: B-9 **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”** (vs. 1&3)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel And ransom
captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile
here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee O Israel!

3 O come, Desire of nations, blind All peoples
in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and discord
cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

HYMN: B-38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1&4)

1 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold.,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing.

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
 from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
 the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
 the Spirit of counsel and of might,
 the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
 He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
 or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
 with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
 the leopard will lie down with the goat,
 the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
 and a little child will lead them.
⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
 their young will lie down together,
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
 and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

HYMN: B-48 “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming By faithful prophets sung.
 It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of
 Winter, When half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind:
 With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright She bore for us a
 Savior When half-spent was the night.

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel
 Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married

to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

HYMN: B-31 "Hark! The Herold Angels Sing" (vs. 1&2)

1 Hark!The herald angels singGlory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King!

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels singGlory to the new-born King!

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

HYMN: B-25 **“Away in a Manger”** (vs. 1&2)

1 Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord
Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby awakes, But little Lord
Jesus no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look
down from the sky, And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

SEVENTH LESSON **Luke 2:8-16**

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

HYMN: B-23 **“Angels We Have Heard on High”** (vs. 1&2)

1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsisDeo, gloria in excelsisDeo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

HYMN: B-66 **"We Three Kings of Orient Are"** (vs. 1&5)

1 We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading,
still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

5 Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HYMN: B-40

“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world!, the Lord is come! Let earth
receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature
sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world!, the Savior reigns Let us our

songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding
joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns
infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes
the nations prove The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of his love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

We Respond with Thanksgiving

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the creator and giver of life, who sent to earth His Son, our Lord, to be born at Christmas. As He is our Savior, I believe it is my responsibility to carry His message in my person and behavior, and with the Church universal relate His Gospel so that He may be born in the hearts of all the people of the earth. I believe in the love and mercy of His Father, and in the sustaining comfort of His Holy Spirit, and with their help, the coming of His kingdom on earth. Amen. (*The Christmas Creed*)

OFFERING (Please remember to mail your offering to the church)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: The Word was made flesh,

Many: Alleluia, Alleluia!

One: and dwelt among us,

Many: Alleluia, Alleluia!

One: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

Many: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary:

Many: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord:

Many: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:

Many: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:

Many: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

Many: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:

Many: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! It is in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord that we pray the prayer he taught us,

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 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.

We are Sent Out to Love and Serve

HYMN:B-60 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

1 Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin, mother and child!
Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, Holy night!
Shepherds quake, at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly, hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

3 Silent night, Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

4 Silent night Holy Night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Charge and Benediction

L: Go forth in the name of the Lord. This is God's charge: to give our allegiance to Jesus Christ and to love one another as he commanded. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

P: Alleluia! Amen.

Postlude