

BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140

November 27, 2022 10:30 a.m.

Celebrating 208 years of Faithful Service to Our God

First Sunday of Advent - A Service of Hanging of the Greens

WELCOME

L: This is the day that the Lord has made

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

THE PEACE

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

“SURELY THE PRESENCE”

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel’s wings, I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.

***LITANY OF THE GREENS**

L: How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?"

P: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

P: With garlands of wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our savior?

P: With arrangements of holly and ivy, symbolizing His passion, death and resurrection.

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

P: By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

L: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

P: All Glory to God in the highest!

OPENING PRAYER: God of manger and star, let us enter your story once again and find ourselves kneeling with the shepherds, singing with the angels and worshipping with the Magi. Touch our hearts with the wonder of birth, and the depths of your love. Speak to us in word and song and lift us to the realms of glory. Amen.

CAROL: 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
by thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PARAMENTS

Isaiah 40:3-5

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

ADVENT WREATH

Jeremiah 23:5-6

The days are surely coming says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which He will be called: "The Lord is our Righteousness."

CAROL: 144

"In the Bleak Midwinter" (vs. 1 & 2)

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, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

WREATHS AND GARLAND

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, among them a light has shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

CAROL: 104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" (vs. 1 & 2)

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!

Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

2 Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

3 You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

HOLLY AND IVY

Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5-6

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; Surely He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; Upon Him was the punishment that made us whole. And by His bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

CAROL

"The Holly and the Ivy"

POINSETTIA

Numbers 24:17

I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near ...a star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

CAROL: 129

"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 floweret 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 aright she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

MANGER

Luke 2:6-7

And while they were there the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the Inn.

CAROL: 128

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

EVERGREEN TREE

Micah 5:2, 4

But you, O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from ancient days. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and He shall be the one of peace.

CAROL: 140

"Once In Royal David's City"

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child, so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

CAROLING

Psalm 96: 1-4a, 6

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth, Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations,

His marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

The singing of carols is one of the greatest joys of the season. Please sing the first verse of each carol listed below.

CAROLS

123-"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

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 all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

115-"Away in a Manger"

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

143-"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

151-"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

133-"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!

122-"Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

TREE LIGHTING

John 1: 1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the Beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born not of the blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. (*The Apostles' Creed - Traditional*)

OFFERING (Please remember to mail your offering to Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church, 9602 Murdoch Goshen Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140)

DOXOLOGY: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above Ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

JOYS & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION – (Please send your joys and concerns to the church email and we will publish them in the weekly ENews)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, who created Light, in this season of darkness, may we sit in the darkness. May we sit in solidarity with those for whom there is little hope, joy, peace, or love. May we sit in the darkness as we remember those who are in prison. May we sit in the darkness as we think of those who have no homes. May we sit in the darkness as we sit with those who have experienced hate because of the color of their skin, because of the language they speak, the way they worship, or the clothing they wear. May we sit in the darkness, as You, once long ago, cried out in the darkness of the night of Your birth. May we cry out, and may we remember that this is a season of waiting. Hope, joy, peace, and love will come, but they are not here yet.

We must actively watch and wait. May we do so, knowing that You are also waiting with us in the darkness, waiting for Your light to shine through us and in our world in a new way.

Arise, shine, our light is coming! Arise, shine, the light of the world is in us! Arise, shine, be the light of change you wish to see in the world. Arise, shine, knowing that

God has forgiven us, loves us, and restores us. Arise, shine, and share the Light of the World. We pray in the way that You taught us as we say together,

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.

*CAROL 134

"Joy to the World"

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

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.

*BENEDICTION

Go forth from this place an awakened people, aware of the world's darkness,
yet reaching for the light.

P: We see God at work in our world, and that makes all the difference.

Go forth from this place an expectant people, conscious of judgment in our
midst, yet welcoming God's new order and justice.

P: We welcome God's new day, believing that Christ will set us free.

Go forth from this place a serving people, sensing anew the pain so many
bear, yet confident God will bring healing, even through you.

P: We open ourselves as channels of God's grace, for we have heard good news and we have been empowered to share it.

May the God of peace be with us all, this season and forever.

P: Amen and Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

We believe that our mission is to:

- B**ring people to Jesus
- E**quipping them for ministry
- T**each them to love God and others
- H**eal the brokenhearted in loving family community
- E**njoy God and each other
- L**ive worshipful lives

Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church Contact Information

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POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



If you would like to make a purchase for a Poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, please attach \$10.00 for *each* poinsettia to this order form and return this form to the church office **by Monday, December 12th**. Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service.

Given by: _____

Phone # in case we have any questions: _____

(Circle one) Honor/Memory of:
