

# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | [WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG](http://WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG) | 303.758.2820



The Beginning of Everything  
+ Birth of the Messiah +  
*December 24, 2025*

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# ✠ Gathering ✠

## PRELUDE

Denver Brass Quintet (3:00, 5:00, 7:00pm)

## WELCOME

## OPENING LITANY

## PROCESSIONAL CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

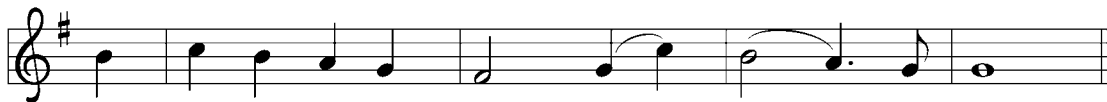


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade



## PSALM 96

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## ANTHEM

Gloria Fanfare (11:00am)  
*Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills*

Jerry Estes

Will We Know Him? (3:00pm)  
*Bethany Youth Choir, guest dir. Matthew Eschliman*

Don Besig

Sing We Now of Christmas (5:00pm)  
*Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns*

arr. Kevin McChesney

And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah (7:00pm)  
*Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt*

G.F. Handel

## ✠ Word ✠

## LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### CAROL MEDLEY

#### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

#### It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

*Please stand for the Gospel Processional.*

**GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL**

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-19

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!". <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# GOSPEL RECESSIONAL

## Joy to the World

4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

# SERMON

## CAROL

## Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.  
*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS

Holy God, on this night when the story begins again, you come to us as a small child held in human arms. Open us to your nearness. Let your humility steady us, your tenderness shape us, and your presence meet us in the real places of our lives. Be born among us tonight, and draw us into the new beginning you bring.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**  
*Please share a blessing of peace with others around you.*

# ✠ Offering ✠

## ABUNDANTLY BETHANY

- ♦ *To learn more about the Bethany community visit [www.Bethany-Denver.org](http://www.Bethany-Denver.org).*
- ♦ *We love to know that we are worshiping together this Christmas – fill out a digital connection card using the NFT tag on the back of the pew in front of you.*

## OFFERING

*You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!*

- *On our **website**, find the **GIVE** button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org***
- *Through the **Bethany Connect app** or use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code***
- ***Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)*
- ***Drop** your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit*



## OFFERING MUSIC

Rejoice Greatly from Messiah (11:00am) <i>Eliza Neff, soprano</i>	G.F. Handel
Gesu Bambino (3:00pm) <i>Matthew Eschliman, tenor</i>	Pietro A. Yon
Shepherd's Pipe Carol (5:00pm) <i>Chancel Choir Ensemble</i>	John Rutter
Shepherd's Pipe Carol (7:00pm) <i>Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt</i>	John Rutter



# ✠ Meal ✠

## WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

## 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Bethany welcomes all to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward where you can receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine, or pick up a pre-packaged communion set from the tray in front of your seating area - they are all alcohol-free and some are also gluten-free. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests to receive a blessing.*

***Pick up a candle from a basket after you commune.***

## ANTHEM

Holy Forever - Christmas (11:00am)  
*Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills*

Chris Tomlin

A Star, A Song, A Sign (3:00pm)  
*Bethany Youth Choir, dir. Matthew Eschliman*

Brad Nix

O Holy Night (5:00pm)  
*Chancel Choir Ensemble*

arr. John Rutter

O Holy Night (7:00pm)  
*Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt*

arr. John Rutter

# COMMUNION CAROL

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## ANTHEM

Wexford Carol (11:00am)

*Eliza Neff, soprano*

arr. Stephen DeCesare

A Cradle Carol (3:00pm)

*Matthew Eschliman, tenor*

Dan Forrest

Mary, Did You Know (5:00pm)

*Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns*

arr. Anna Laura Page

Wexford Carol (7:00pm)

*Matt Weissenbuehler, baritone*

arr. Richard Walters

## TABLE BLESSING

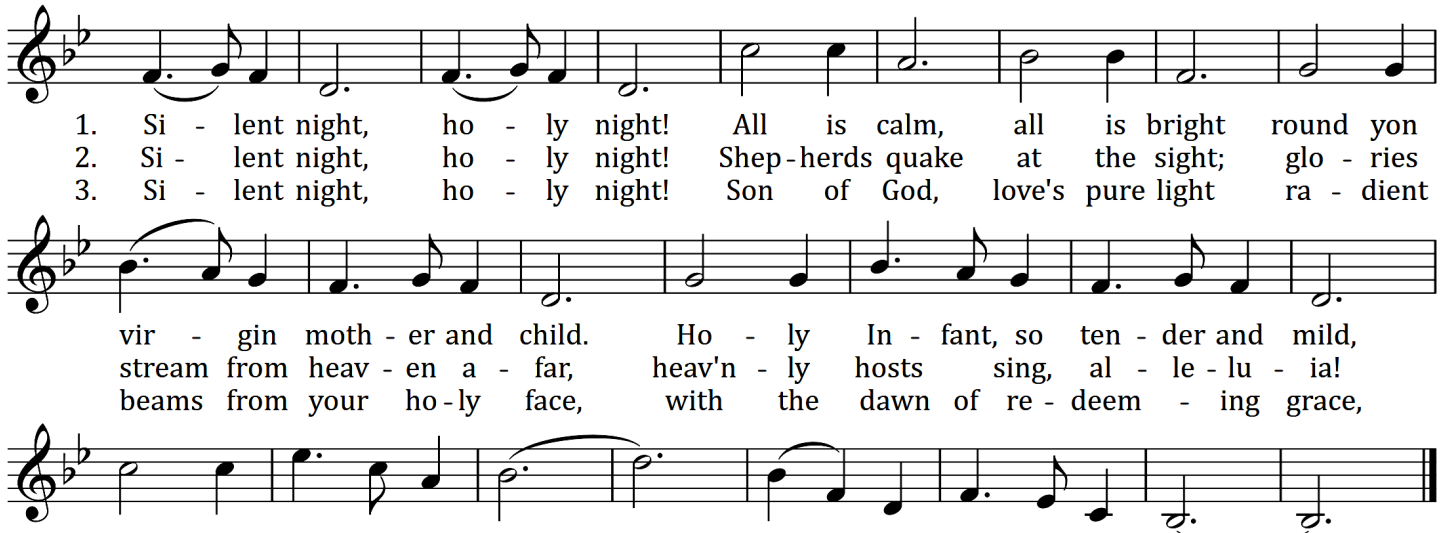
## CANDLE LIGHTING

Please tip the unlighted candle to the lighted candle.

### CAROL

### Silent Night

ELW #281



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon  
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; glo - ries  
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - dient

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing, al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from your ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

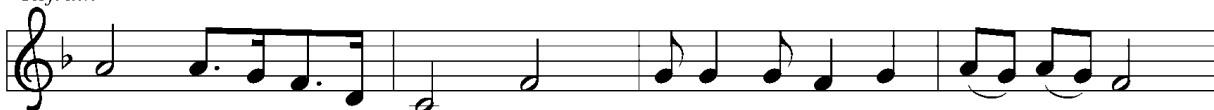
sleep in heav - en - ly peace,\_\_\_\_ sleep in heav - en - ly peace.\_\_\_\_  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!\_\_\_\_ Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!\_\_\_\_  
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth,\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.\_\_\_\_

## ✠ Sending ✠

LUKE 2:20

**CAROL****Go Tell It on the Mountain**

ELW #290

*You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.**Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

Merry Christmas!

**Merry Christmas!!****POSTLUDE**

Carol Rhapsody

Rick Seaton

# WORSHIP MUSIC SELECTIONS & MUSICIANS

*Music Director and Organist, Rick Seaton*

**DECEMBER 24, 11:00AM**

**Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills**

**Eliza Neff, soprano**

## ANTHEM

Gloria Fanfare

Jerry Estes

*Gloria in excelsis Deo, let the people sing! Gloria in excelsis Deo, let the praises ring!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, let the people sing! Gloria in excelsis Deo, let the praises ring!  
Peace to the world, good tidings we bring. Let all creation lift their voice and sing!  
Peace to the world, good tidings we bring. Let all creation lift their voice and sing!  
Sing gloria, oh let them sing! Sing gloria, oh let them ring!*

## OFFERING

Rejoice Greatly from Messiah

G.F. Handel

*Rejoice greatly, rejoice, O daughter of Zion!  
O daughter of Zion! Rejoice greatly, shout, daughter of Jerusalem:  
O daughter of Zion! Rejoice greatly, shout, daughter of Jerusalem:  
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee.  
He is the righteous Savior, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.  
He is the righteous Savior, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.*

## COMMUNION

Holy Forever (Christmas)

Chris Tomlin

*Held within a manger the Son of God arrived, the one who would be called Emmanuel.  
The promise was delivered unto a virgin bride, the one who would be called Emmanuel.  
Your name is the highest, your name is the greatest, your name stands above them all.  
All thrones and dominions, all powers and positions, your name stands above them all.  
And the angels cry, holy. All creation cries, holy. You are lifted high, holy, holy forever.  
In the humble town of David, a Savior born today, the one who would be called Emmanuel.  
Behold the host of heaven with holy roar proclaim, the one who would be called Emmanuel.  
The Messiah our God is with us now. Hear Your people sing, holy.  
To the King of kings, holy. You will always be holy, holy forever.*

Wexford Carol

arr. Stephen DeCesare

*Good people all this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done in sending his beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem, upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.  
Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."  
With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went, the babe to find;  
and as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem, upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.*

# DECEMBER 24, 3:00PM

Denver Brass Quintet  
Bethany Youth Choir, guest dir. Matthew Eschliman  
Matthew Eschliman, tenor

PRELUDE

Denver Brass Quintet

ANTHEM

Will We Know Him?

Don Besig

*Are we ready for the babe of Bethlehem to be born in a lowly stall?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King who will come to save us all?  
Are we ready for the star of Bethlehem to appear in the winter sky?  
Are we ready to follow anywhere it leads, and let its light fill all our lives?  
Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory, once again proclaim the wondrous story.  
God will send his own true Son, but will we know him when he comes?  
Are we ready for the song of Bethlehem to declare our Savior's birth?  
Are we ready to join the angels as they sing, and spread the news to all on earth?  
Are we ready for the babe of Bethlehem, God's true and promised son?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King, and will we know him when he comes?*

OFFERING

Gesu Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night  
Was born the child, the Christmas rose, the King of love and light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,  
And at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.  
Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night  
That gave the world its Christmas rose, its King of love and light.  
Let every voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell,  
From paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

COMMUNION

A Star, A Song, A Sign

Brad Nix

*There's a light in the distance, a star burning bright. A flame in the shadows that fills up the night.  
The glory of heaven will soon bring the day, for Jesus is coming, prepare ye the way.  
There's a song in the distance, a carol so fair. There's the sound of rejoicing and love everywhere.  
Soon angels will sing out with glorious praise, for Jesus is coming, prepare ye the way.  
Now people look east for a beautiful sign. The morning is coming and painting the sky.  
Rejoice and be grateful with jubilant praise, for Jesus is coming, prepare ye the way.*

A Cradle Carol

Dan Forrest

*Lord Jesus, Savior, infant weak, why come to earth as one so meek?  
A newborn babe, helpless and small; and yet creator of us all.  
Thou has no beauty, form, or grace; no fortune, rank, no fame, place  
That men should see thee and adore a babe so humble and so poor.  
But to the soul whose eyes are healed, to whom the truth has been revealed,  
Thy glory challenges the sun; thou art a thousand joys in one.  
Though strangers see a babe in straw, thy children see the Lord of all  
Who laid aside his rightful reign to take away our sin and shame.  
This sacrifice of love divine, this condescension to mankind  
With beauty robes thy lowly frame, and sanctifies thy simple name.  
O aid my worship, mighty king, that I might with the angels sing,  
"Glory to God on high!" Now crowned again beyond the sky!  
Oh, help me see thee and adore this little child, my God and Lord.*



**Denver Brass Quintet**  
**Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns**  
**Chancel Choir Ensemble**

# Denver Brass Quintet

# Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Kevin McChesney

# Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter

Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem,  
 Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem.  
 Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy  
 That Christ the King is come to bring us peace on earth,  
 And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."  
 Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem,  
 Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?  
 None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem;  
 But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem.  
 Angels in the sky came down from on high, hovered o'er the manger  
 Where the babe was lying cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,  
 sleeping now at Bethlehem.  
 Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, is he there at Bethlehem?  
 I will find him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o'er Bethlehem.  
 May I come with you shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem?  
 Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?  
 Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy  
 That Christ the King is born this night in lowly stable yonder,  
 Born for you at Bethlehem."

# O Holy Night

arr. John Rutter

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts, by His cradle we stand;  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend;  
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger; Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!  
Behold your King! Before him bend! Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

## Mary, Did You Know

arr. Anna Laura Page

**DECEMBER 24, 7:00PM**  
**Denver Brass Quintet**  
**Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt**  
**Matt Weissenbuehler, baritone**

PRELUDE

Denver Brass Quintet

ANTHEM

And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah

G.F. Handel

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together,  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

OFFERING

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter

*Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem,  
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem.  
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy  
That Christ the King is come to bring us peace on earth, And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."  
Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem,  
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?  
None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem;  
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem.  
Angels in the sky came down from on high, hovered o'er the manger  
Where the babe was lying cradled in the arms of his mother Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem.  
Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, is he there at Bethlehem?  
I will find him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o'er Bethlehem.  
May I come with you shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem?  
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?  
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy  
That Christ the King is born this night in lowly stable yonder, Born for you at Bethlehem."*

COMMUNION

O Holy Night

arr. John Rutter

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts, by His cradle we stand;  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend;  
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger; Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!  
Behold your King! Before him bend! Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

*Good people all this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done in sending his beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem, upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.  
The night before that happy tide the noble Virgin and her guide  
Were long time seeking up and down to find a lodging in the town.  
But mark how all things came to pass; from every door repelled, alas!  
As long foretold, their refuge all was but a humble oxen stall.  
Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."  
With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went, the babe to find;  
and as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.  
Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the virgin maid,  
Attending on the Lord of life, who came on earth to end all strife.*

## **Christmas Poinsettias were provided by:**

David & Nancy Admire in memory of Adolph & Maxine Rogge  
Dennis & Barbara Ahlman in thanks for our many friends and family  
Kathleen Alrubaiy in memory of my husband, Al and my brother, Bill  
Jim Bain in memory of Christine Power Bain  
Georgia Beardsley in memory of Dean Peterson  
Bethany Carillons in memory Mike Hausman  
Tom & Mary Brook In memory of Maxine, Ben and JoBeth  
Richard & Linda Bryant in honor of our children and grandchildren  
Suzanne Bryson to the glory of Kelly, Lisa and their families and in honor of my parents  
Judith Burchfield in memory of Robert S Burchfield, his parents and my parents  
Tim & Kris Carr in honor of Pastor Nate's yoga class  
Tammy Craven in memory of Don Craven and Roy & Nancy Wittebort  
Mark & Anne Dana in honor of our children, grandchildren and their families  
The Davy family in loving memory of Judy Houchens  
Jeri-Sue Dean in memory of Jerry Beabout, Bill Beabout and Betty Beabout Boehm  
Deb Distler & Garth Englund Jr in memory of our parents  
Alisa Duty, Ian and Oakley Thomas in memory of Pastor Bill Duty and Daniel Duty  
Lee Engelbart & family in memory of Kay Engelbart  
Craig & Teresa Faessler in honor and memory of our parents  
Julie Friedemann and Marie Friedemann in memory of Eleanora Sorenson and Oscar & Eleanor Friedemann  
Andy Gerber in memory of my parents, Samuel & Nancy  
David & Kathy Gies - Praying for Peace & Joy this Christmas Season  
Rich & Kathy Good in honor of Brooks, Emmitt, Adeline & Evvie  
Bradley, Joy, Daniel Haas & family and Janet Sparling & family in loving memory of Ernest Haas  
Peter & Kathie Hamilton in memory of Bud & Ellie MacDonald and William & Mary Hamilton  
Christine Harrell in memory of Elijah Lewis and Gary Lewis  
The Holliday Family in honor of Julie Holliday and in memory of Guy Holliday  
Duane Houchens in honor of my family and in memory of Judy Houchens  
Robert House in honor of Callie, Ryan, Taner, and Kenan  
Kristin Janicek in thankfulness for the gift of Jesus Christ  
The Johnson family and Kathy Thompson in memory of Jim Thompson  
Beckie Jones in memory of her husband, Ed Jones and their parents, Ed & Bernice Jones, and Bob & Joan Emanuel  
Susan Junge in honor and in memory of dear family and friends  
Bill & Jo Anne King in memory of parents Charles & Dorothy King and Rex & Betty Grimsley and sister Elisabeth  
Sherri Koelbel in honor of the blessing of grandchildren  
The Kraus family in honor of our Bethany Staff who bless us every day  
Mark & Lynn Lacy in honor of the blessing of friends and family

Peter Leising & Mary Littman  
Vincent & Penny and Kristen Longo in memory of Stacie, daughter & sister  
Rebecca Lusk in thanksgiving for grandparents and parents  
The Martin family in memory of Stan Martin and for the glory of God!  
Diane McAllen in loving memory of Robert & Rachel Friedell  
Marianne McAlpin in memory of John McAlpin  
Patrick McCarter in memory of my beloved Catherine  
Linda, Scott, Heather, Julie, Eric, Lindsay, Ryan, Courtney & Leah Miller in loving memory of Gary Miller  
Jim & Janet Mortinsen in honor of our children; Matt, Peter and Abby  
Tom & Susan Mroch in memory of Dale Bernard, Susan's sister  
Steven Newell in memory of Waldo & Ivy Newell  
Bob & Judi Newman in memory of William Newman and our parents and grandparents  
The Peters family in memory of Sondra  
Virginia and Jim Prochnow in honor of parents Lucille and Ivan Hurt, Evelyn and Ray Prochnow  
David Reinhard, Katelyn Reinhard and Michaela Ziemba in memory of Kathryn Reinhard  
Pamela Rios-Menter in memory of Daniel Menter  
Lori Roenfeldt in memory of Verne Roenfeldt  
Brittany Rogers in memory of Thompson Rogers  
Scott & Sheri Roswell in memory of Charles Hood and Sue Patton  
Art & Gerry Sandberg in honor of Pastor Gary, Karen, Dan, Stefn and Emily  
Gary Schlatter in loving memory of JD Schlatter and Caroline Schlatter  
Debbie & Scott Scholbe in honor of treasured family  
David Scott in honor of our grandchildren, Fletcher, Elliot, Hannah, and Anders  
Nancy Seavall in memory of Wendy Trigg from her loving family and in memory of Grant Seavall from his children  
Jane & Lars O. Soderberg, Jr in honor and memory of Albert & Susan Gravenhorst and Nancy & Lars O. Soderberg  
Bryce Steckler & family  
Erik & Barbara Stone in honor of musicians who bring Christmas joy  
Margaret Stookesberry  
Shirley Taborsky in memory of my husband, Howard  
Pat Wallingford in memory my parents, Chester & Pear Johnson, my 5 siblings, & the Johnson family from Mullen, NE  
Matt & Annell Weissenbuehler in celebration of family  
Kay Whitmore in memory of Bill Whitmore  
Peter & Libby Whitmore in memory of Bob & Karen Weertz and Bill Whitmore  
Brad & Joan Whittlesey in memory of our parents  
HP & Kay Wilms in honor of our growing family; Andy, Christina, Laura and Josh  
Witt/Puga/Cowan/Polnick families in loving memory of Catherine Witt and Joan Witt Cowan  
Al Youngdahl & Barb Sanborn in honor of all God's people  
Peter Zwanzig in loving memory of my wife, Lucille



# WEDNESDAY NIGHT

*at Bethany*

<b>5:15 – 6:15PM</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
5:45 – 7:15PM	Nursery Open: Infants – 3 Years Old	Nursery
<b>Faith Formation Programming Begins!</b>		
5:00 – 6:00PM	Deborah Circle: Women's Group	Library
6:00 – 6:25PM	Faith in Motion ReBELLion Youth Bell Choir Youth Choir	Great Hall Music Wing
6:00 – 6:45PM	Adult Ed: Bible Study	Chapel
6:25 – 7:15PM	Parents Group	Room 400
6:30 – 7:15PM	Spark in the Nite: Rotational Elementary Education	Room 402-405
6:30-7:15PM	Preschool Faith Education	Room 401
<b>7:15PM</b>	<b>Pick Up and Sign Out:</b> PreSchool-5th Grade	<b>Classrooms</b>
6:30 – 7:30PM	Confirmation: 6th-8th Grade	Room 412
6:30 – 7:30PM	Youth Group: High School	Soul Schopp
6:45 – 8:30PM	Carillons Adult Bell Choir	Room 315/316
7:00 – 9:00PM	Chancel Adult Choir	Room 312

**Wednesday Night Programming will resume on January 14.**

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP

- ♦ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, [Bethany-Denver.org](http://Bethany-Denver.org), or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ♦ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ♦ **Sunday Worship services:** 8:30am Traditional - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy.  
10:00am Casual Blended – a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
- ♦ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ♦ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ♦ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ♦ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ♦ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to [www.signupschedule.com/Bethany](http://www.signupschedule.com/Bethany) to sign up!
- ♦ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ♦ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
  - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship. Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
  - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
  - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, please speak with an usher. Bethany's Nursery is now staffed EVERY Sunday during worship services! Please welcome mother and daughter duo, Amber and Elana Kahn! They are excited to meet you and your young children! **The Nursery will be staffed today at the 11:00am and 3:00pm services.** For the other services you are welcome to use it with your child.

### **Christmas 2025: "The Beginning of Everything: The Messiah"**

Throughout the season of Advent we traced God's fresh starts: Light that breaks our darkness, Stars that carry promise, a Crown that gathers a people, and a Scroll that speaks hope. Today, we rejoice that all of this finds its center in Jesus, the Messiah. In his birth, God begins new life among us, mending what is broken and drawing us into a wider welcome. Receive this Good News of great joy for all people and the love of God that still makes all things new.