

Bethel United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent

Chrismon Service

December 1, 2024

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Prelude: *"Sing Alleluia to the Lord"*

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** *O Come All Ye Faithful (v. 1,3,6)* UMH 234

Lighting of the Advent Candle Tina and Travis Oaks

***Call to Worship, Apostle's Creed, Gloria Patria**

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Message: *"Pay Attention"*, **Scripture:** Luke 21:25-36

Christmas Confession

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide men to the Holy Child Jesus, we confess we have not always followed the light of your Word.

We have not searched for signs of your love in the world.

We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have questioned the good news.

We have expected little and hoped for less.

Forgive us, Lord, for such self-serving symbols that mark our lives.

Open our hearts to your abiding presence.

May the joy of the angels become our joy; may the devotion of the Shepherds become our devotion; may the vision of the wise men become our vision; may the wonder of your love be born in us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of the Good News

Leader:

People: Be born in us, O Lord. Be born in every part of our lives. Be born in every place where we live, until we are conscious of your presence: In our joys and sorrows. In our fears and our failures. In our hopes and our dreams. In our work and in our worship. Be born in us, O Lord, be born in us this day.

Christmas Confession (Unison) — *on previous page*

Chrismon Service

Introduction to Chrismons

***Hymn:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Presentation of the Nativity Symbols

The Epiphany Star, Christmas Rose, Manger, Angel

***Hymn:** *Away in a Manger* (UMH 217)

Placing Chrismons on the tree.

Presentation of the Passion Symbols

The Chalice, Crosses, Sacrificial Lamb, Butterfly, Dove and Shell

***Hymn:** *The Old Rugged Cross (v.1)* (UMH 504)

Placing Chrismons on the tree

Presentation of the Symbols of Victory

Alpha and Omega, The Chi Rho, The Fish, The Shepherd's Staff,

The Cross and Orb, The Iota-Chi, The Crown, The IHS

***Hymn:** *Up From the Grave He Arose (v. 1,3)* (UMH 322)

Placing Chrismons on the tree

Chrismon Prayer

Almighty God, whose glory and majesty glow through the symbols of Christ, may these Chrismons ever remind us of your love entering our lives. May these gifts we have hung upon the tree become the gifts of your comfort and joy we share with others. So may we sing of redemption's happy dawn, for Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem; through the heaven-born Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Joy to the World* (UMH 246)

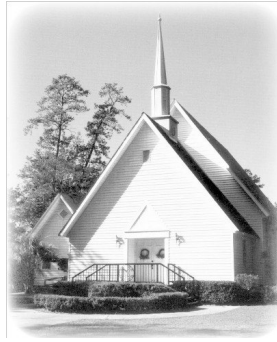
***Benediction, Closing Chorus:** *Bind Us Together*



1940's



1960's



Today

The History of Bethel UMC

The earliest historical record of Bethel Methodist Church is that in August of 1834, a campmeeting was held on the banks of Bethel Pond. Church meetings were held in neighborhood homes following this. In good weather brush arbors provided meeting places for these early worshippers. Later, services were held in a small log schoolhouse about a mile north of the present church.

On March 17, 1847, Joseph and Thirza Hale deeded two acres of land to the Methodist Episcopal Church with the provision that Bethel Meeting House be built in the center of the two acres. A small frame church with wooden shutters was built where our Sunday School rooms are today.

In 1909 the congregation started building the present sanctuary. The church building was originally roofed with wooden shingles. The windows contain the original panes with the imperfections of early glass. The interior of the church was not completed until 1947. The narthex was added in 1970 and the steeple in 1972.

The furniture in the Church constitutes one of the most interesting parts of its history. The Pulpit was used by Bishop Joshua Soule on February 6, 1845 when he convened the first Florida Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Trinity Methodist Church, Tallahassee, Florida. Trinity gave the pulpit to Bethel Church circa 1895. The chancel rail, communion table and two of the pulpit chairs were part of Trinity Church during the 1800's and were given to Bethel in 1946. The larger pulpit chair was a gift of John Sullivan, friend of our Church.

(history prepared for bulletin cover by Thelma Royce, church historian)



"Surely the Lord is in this place! This is none other than the house of God" Genesis 28:16

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Chrismon Service 1st Sunday of Advent

**1470 Bethel Church Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
(850) 576-1454**

**"Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life"
Welcome home!**