

Bethel United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent Chrismon Service

December 1, 2024

Welcome

Announcements, Birthdays and Anniversaries, Fellowship

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

Lighting First Candle of the Advent Wreath Tina and Travis Oaks

Call to Worship, Apostle's Creed and Gloria Patria

Prayer Concerns and Thanksgivings

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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

Declaration of the Good News:

Leader: Hear the good news which we receive, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: That Jesus Christ was born, lived, and died for our sins according to the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared to the women, to Peter, then to the Twelve, and to many faithful witnesses. We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is our Savior, the Victor over the powers of sin and death. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God.

People: Amen.

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. Amen.

Christmas Confession (Unison)

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.

Chrismon Service

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISMONS

At Christmas, not only does the star lead us to Bethlehem, but also to Nazareth, Galilee, Capernaum, Jerusalem, Calvary, and heaven. For as part of Jesus' birth, we also celebrate his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his ultimate victory over the powers of sin and death.

Like the three kings, we present our gifts to Jesus and to one another. Today, we will present our offerings in the form of CHRISMONS. CHRISMON is a combination of two words: CHRIST and MONogram. A Chrismon is a symbol of Christ.

Christian symbols date back to the early church. They are found on the walls of the Roman catacombs, on jewelry and utensils from excavations in Palestine and elsewhere. Early Christians used them to identify themselves to one another, to designate meeting places, and sometimes, to show nonbelievers where they stood. These symbols of the early church served to transmit the faith and beliefs of the followers of Jesus Christ.

Chrismons were first used in 1957 to decorate a Christmas tree in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia. They were composed of white and gold materials, WHITE is symbolic of our Lord's purity and perfection, GOLD, of his majesty, glory and triumph. The green of the tree is symbolic of promised healing. The white lights on the tree point to Christ as the light of the world.

Scripture: *(Isa 9:2-7) The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 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. Of the increase 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**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel! (v. 1,2)

#211 UMH

PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY SYMBOLS

The Epiphany Star

(Matthew 2:1-2) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."



The Christmas Rose

(Isa 35:1-2) The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.



The Manger

(Luke 2:1-7) In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. 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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



The Angel

(Luke 2:8-14) And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."



***HYMN**

Away in a Manger

#217 UMH

PRESENTATION OF THE PASSION SYMBOLS

The Chalice

(Mat 26:26-28) *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*



The Crosses

(John 19:16-18) *Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others--one on each side and Jesus in the middle.*



The Sacrificial Lamb

(Isa 53:4-7) *Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*



(John 1:29) *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

The Butterfly

Just as the caterpillar spins a cocoon and lies encased in a seemingly dead shell only to emerge in a changed form as a beautiful butterfly, so Jesus was entombed, but rose from the dead.

(Mat 28:1-7) *After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that*



The Dove and Shell

(Mat 3:16-17) *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."...*

(Mat 28:19-20) *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*



***HYMN**

The Old Rugged Cross (v. 1)

#504 UMH

PRESENTATION OF THE SYMBOLS OF VICTORY

Alpha and Omega

(Rev 22:13) *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*



The Chi Rho

(Mat 16:15-16) *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*



The Fish

(Mat 4:19) *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*



The Shepherd's Staff

(John 10:11) *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*



The Cross and Orb



(1 John 4:9-10) *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (Heb 13:8) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

The Iota-Chi

(Phil 2:9-11) *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*



The Crown



(Rev 11:15) *The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."*

The IHS

(Mat 1:21) *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*



HYMN

Up From the Grave He Arose (v. 1,3)

#322 UMH

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

#246 UMH

BENEDICTION

CLOSING CHORUS

Bind Us Together

Prayer Concerns

Bethel UMC, The UMC, Our Country, those in Military Service, Police, Fire, EMS first responders, Healthcare professionals and home caregivers, those still recovering from the tornadoes; Teachers, Students; Pastor Ralph & Judy Wrightstone; Kathie & Al Adams; Lexie Allen; Judy Goreau; Ryan Goreau; Savannah Lantz; Nan Lindsey; David Plate; family and friends of George Potter; Tina Rucker; Melanie Worley Sanders; Paul Sawyer; Don & Pat Singletary; Austin Smith; Lawson Wooley; Lon & Lucy Wright; Howard and Ruth Zody

Please use a prayer request form, in the narthex, to submit requests for adding to the Prayer Concerns in the worship bulletin and online