



Church Office: (715) 386-8821
 Fax: (715) 386-8894
 General Email: bethel@bethelhudson.org
www.bethelhudson.org

Dennis R. Nelson, Senior Pastor (dnelson@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 22
Van V. Bredeson, Associate Pastor (van@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 24
Robert Bipes, Visitation Pastor (pastorbob@bethelhudson.org)	
Lisa Ruettimann, Director of Children's Ministries (lisa@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 26
Layton "Skip" James, Director of Music (kplmstr@comcast.net)	Ext. 21
Chuck McGill, Director of Contemporary Music (chuck@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 21
Lonna Possehl, Bell Ensemble Director (rlpossehl@baldwin-telecom.net)	Ext. 21
Joelene Baker, Parish Administrator (jbaker@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 32
Kristi Janisch, Administrative Assistant (kristi@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 21
Lori Conley, Communications (lori@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 21
Penelope Johnson, Volunteer Coord. (penelope@bethelhudson.org)	
Kristine Skrukrud, Financial Accountant (kristines@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 25
Cheri Monette, Financial Secretary (cherim@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 31
Juli Hilding, Youth Ministry Coordinator (jhilding@bethelhudson.org)	Ext. 27
Welcome Center	Ext. 28
Education Center	Ext. 29
Youth Information	Ext. 51
Bethel Highlands Preschool	715-381-8254 Ext. 401

Gathering / New Song Band:

Vocals: Bill Jenkinson, Katie Possehl;
 Flute/Vocals: Heidi Selander; Keyboard: Tracey Jenkinson;
 Bass: Chuck McGill; Guitar: Paul Gavic, Bernie Kottmann, Drums: Jim Mlinar

Radio Broadcast of 8:00 AM Bethel Downtown service on WEVR 106.3 FM & 1550 AM

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*New
Song*

Christmas Day
December 25, 2011



**The
Most
Splendid
Gift**

Worship Support:

Brian/Celle Ullom, Troy Forcier, Bill Swanson, Chuck Lewis

Greeters: Bonnie Long/Ruby Mockler Welcome Center: Terry Jepperson

SONG: **HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING**
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**Hark! the herald angels sing...glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth...and mercy mild...God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise...join the triumph of the skies...
with angelic hosts proclaim..."Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing...glory to the newborn king.**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored...Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time...behold him come...offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see...hail, the incarnate deity.
Pleased as man with men to dwell...Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing...glory to the newborn king.**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace. Hail the son of righteousness.
Light and life...to all he brings...risen with healing on his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by...born that men no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth...born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing...glory to the newborn king.**

Prayer of the Day:

**ALL: God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine
the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and
enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

SONG: **O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**
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**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.**

When All Have Communed:

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray. We thank you for this wondrous gift, almighty God. Encourage us in the
ways of trust and faith that our lives may reflect your light in all we say and do; for
the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: May you glory in the birth of the Son of God. And may the blessing of almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Go in peace,
serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SONG: **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**
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J. Work, Jr.

**Go tell it on the mountain...over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain...that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherd kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night.
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth.
Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our savior's birth.**

**Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born.
And brought us God's salvation, that blessed Christmas morn.**



SONG:

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

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**What child is this...who laid to rest...on Mary's lap is sleeping.
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping.**

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.**

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe the son of Mary.

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good christians fear for sinners here, the silent word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be born for me, for you.
Hail, hail the word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense gold and myrrh, come peasant king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

SONG:

AWAY IN A MANGER

J. McFarland, J. Murray, W. Kirkpatrick (arr. by K. Barker)

**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.**

**The cattle are lowing...the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus...no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus...look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle...till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me...Lord Jesus...I ask you to stay,
close by me forever...and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children...in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven...to live with you there.**

**Sing choirs of angels...sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God...all glory in the highest.**

**Yea, Lord we greet thee...born this happy morning.
Jesus to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father...now in flesh appearing.**

Welcome—Theme of the Day—Announcements

Reading from the Bible

John 1:1-14

Sermon:

The Most Splendid Gift

Pastor Dennis Nelson

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Loving God, you have chosen to be with us, living a human life that is like our own,
beginning it with an infant's cries and reliance on the gentle care of parents' provision.

**C: We confess that in our self concern and imagined self-sufficiency, we have often
lived as if we are entirely on our own.**

L: We make our choices, reap the rewards and suffer the consequences:

C: Scarcely thinking of your wondrous nearness.

L: You know our humanity. You know our deepest hurts and our greatest fears.

**C: Forgive us for living as if you did not care for us in the struggles that are ours
just now.**

L: You know our humanity. You know our weaknesses and the excuses we make for the hurts
we bring to those in our lives, and to you.

**C: Forgive us for living as if your power were unavailable to us, to redirect our
aims and to bring healing to our relationships.**

L: We did not choose you. You chose us in love that is beyond our deserving.

**C: Forgive us for believing our foolishness and mistakenness keep us from your
love.**

L: Let our lives reflect your love for us, and for all the world.

C: We ask it for the sake of Jesus, God with us, Emmanuel. Amen.

L: We cannot make our way to God, so God has come to us, as one of us, meeting us where
we are, to bring forgiveness of sins and life and salvation. Believe the good news of This
Wondrous Gift of God!

C: Amen! Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to his people on earth!

SONG:

JOY TO THE WORLD

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**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 world...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!**

**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!**

Prayers for All in Need

Gathering of our First and Best, An Offering to the Lord

Offering	<i>Joy to the World</i>	Wexelberg
	New Song Band	

Offering Prayer

L: Good and loving God,
C: we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord is with you.
C: The Lord is with you, too.
 L: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is the right thing to do.

L: It is certainly right and completely fitting that today and every day we should offer our thanks and praise to you, God of light and hope, for you have made our world your dwelling place, transforming the darkness of our discouragement and weariness by the brightness of Jesus. Born a child among us, he understands our human weakness, for he lived with the limitations we know so well. And yet, he grew to be a compassionate friend, a merciful healer, one generous in forgiveness, the way, the truth, the life. And so, with the angel host who sing of his birth, with the generations of those who have relied upon his life and death and resurrection, with the faithful people around the earth who join in celebration, we too gladly add our voices to sing praises to your holy name!

SONG:

HOLY IS THE LORD

C. Tomlin

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**We stand and lift up our hands...for the joy of the Lord is our strength...
 we bow down...and worship him now...how great...how awesome is he...
 and together we sing...everyone sing.**

**Holy is the Lord, God almighty. The earth...is filled with his glory.
 Holy is the Lord, God almighty. The earth...is filled with his glory...
 the earth...is filled with his glory.**

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying; this is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

L: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The Distribution: The communion meal is offered to all who, trusting in God's promises, would receive in faith God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation given in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.