



A Service of Worship Celebration
For the Birthday of Jesus Christ
Bethany United Methodist Church
December 24, 2010
11:00 P.M.



Entrance

Gathering

Prelude

Toccata on "Vom Himmel hoch"

Garth Edmundson
(1900-1971)

From heaven above to earth I come
To bring good news to everyone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To all the world and gladly sing:

To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This new-born child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
-Martin Luther, 1535

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Carol Johnson

*Hymn No. 245, UMH

The First Noel

*Greeting

Leader: may you find joy and hope this evening in your hearts.

People: We will sing our carols and praises to God's glory this night.

Leader: Come Christ Child, be present this evening.

People: May you find room in your souls to be born this Holy Night. Amen

Proclamation and Praise

The Advent Candle Song

Congregation and Chancel Choir

Light the white one Christ is born, Christ, the Light of the world.

Light the white one: Christ is born, Christ is born tonight

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Pastor Art and Vicki Wolz

Offertory Prayer

Giving our Gifts to the Birthday King, Jesus

Offertory Anthem

"From a Distant Home"

by Hal Hopson

*Doxology No. 95, UMH

Hymn No. 236, UMH

While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks"

Prayer for Christmas

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by

the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lessons and Carols

FIRST LESSON – Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.

UMH 224 “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*” (Choir and congregation)

SECOND LESSON – Luke 2:1-7

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem to register for the census and Mary gives birth to Jesus.

UMH 234 “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” (Choir and congregation)

THIRD LESSON – Luke 2:8-18

The angels tell the shepherds to go to Bethlehem.

UMH 238 “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” (Choir and congregation)

FOURTH LESSON – Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

UMH 254 “*We Three Kings*” (Choir and congregation)

FIFTH LESSON – John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

UMH 246 “*Joy to the World*” (Choir and congregation)

Holy Communion

The Consecration of the Gift from Bethlehem

The Giving of Christ's Son for the people of God by Mary and Joseph of Nazareth

(Cheyenne Taylor and Jordan Cluts)

Music during Communion

The Shepherds at the Manger, from “*The Christmas Tree*” Franz Liszt (1811-1885)
arr. E. Power Biggs

Sending Forth

*Passing the Peace of the Savior

*Hymn No. 239, UMH *Silent Night* Adam White, Guitarist
Stanza 1 (German): Sandy Fox: Stanza 1 (English): Adam White
Stanzas 1-4: Congregation

*Lighting of the Candles

*Postlude *Hallelujah Chorus, from “Messiah”*
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
arr. Virgil Fox

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth,
Hallelujah!
The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom
Of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign
For ever and ever, hallelujah!
King of Kings, and Lord of Lord, and He shall
Reign for ever and ever. Hallelujah!
-Revelation XIX:6, XI:15, XIX:16

*Blessing and Benediction

Pastor Art Wolz

*Congregation to stand

Merry Christmas!

The pastor and staff of Bethany UMC send our prayers that God may bless each of you with a Christmas holiday filled with love, joy, and peace.

Single Service this Sunday

Please note that there is only one service this Sunday, at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School will be held at the normal time, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Poinsettias may be picked up after the December 26th service.

Acolyte: Will Neikirk

