

**NEW BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

PHONE 423-538-8688  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023



*Mission Statement: To know Christ and make Christ known*

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

WELCOME IN CHRIST'S NAME

LITURGY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARY DOBROVOLC

Worship is a special time where people seek to meet God and have their lives changed. To prepare your heart and life to be changed for God's glory, we invite you to a time of reflective prayer and reverent silence seeking the Holy Spirit in your personal time of worship.

PRELUDE

MUSIC BY MARCIA MCGRATH

\*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP  
(Blue Hymnal, #9)

**"O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"**  
(1st verse)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom  
captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed, binds up the brokenhearted, proclaims liberty to captives, and comforts all who mourn.

**We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, hold fast to what is good,

**We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

\*LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)

\*GLORIA PATRI

**"GLORY BE TO THE FATHER"**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Lighting of the Advent Candle

THE WRIGHT FAMILY

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil? You have given us the gift of your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us? You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from you? You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #25**

(Blue Hymnal)

**“AWAY IN A MANGER”**

(All Verses)

1. 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.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord  
Jesus, no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look  
down from the sky, And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me for-  
ever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in  
Thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

SPECIAL MUSIC

KATIE WRIGHT

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

**Luke 12: 22-34 (American Standard Version)**

**SERMON**

**“What’s the Deal with all the Worry?”**

ROGER DAUGHERTY

PRAYER

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*RESPONSIVE HYMN #40**  
(Blue Hymnal)

**“JOY TO THE WORLD”**  
(All Verses)

1. 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.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. 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.

**\*GO IN GOD’S NAME**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**  
(Blue Hymnal, #41)

**“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”**  
(1st verse)

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!

\*Indicates that those who are able may stand. The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession are from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion.

**WELCOME TO NEW BETHEL**  
**December 17, 2023—December 24, 2023**

**9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

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**SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:**

Harold Alison-----recovery from open heart (valve) and by-pass surgery, friend of Dean and Janie Torbett  
Matt Amick-----some improvement of paralysis - still in serious condition, neighbor of Rodney Smith  
Billy Bagnell-----brain tumor; 20-year-old friend of Rodney Smith  
Harold Barnes-----continued improvement in health, church member  
Tommy Forrester-----brain cancer, friend of Mary Lynn Barnes  
Jerry Graham-----A-Fib issues, friend of Katie Wright's  
Don King-----recovery from broken leg, church member  
Pam King-----healing and recovery from stroke, church member  
John Landers, II-----medical and mental health issues, son of Kevyn Torbett  
Phyllis Painter-----eyes, shoulder and leg issues, friend of New Bethel members  
Carolyn Shaw-----mobility issues, wife of Dr. Angus Shaw  
Larry Smith-----recovery from shoulder surgery, church member  
Bill Snapp-----lung and shoulder issues, church member  
Willene Spence-----eyes and leg issues, former minister's wife  
Dean Torbett-----recovery from heart valve surgery, church member  
Janie Torbett-----recovery from shoulder surgery and leg issues, church member

**PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS**

Mickey Church December 19      Bill Snapp December 20

**PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES**

Dwight and Pam King December 19

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

**PRAY FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH:**

Holston Presbytery and their work for the larger church  
This week: Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Greeneville, TN 37743  
The Session as they lead our church

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We are delighted that you are worshiping with us today and pray that your life will be enriched by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**UPCOMING CHURCH ACTIVITIES:** We will continue to have in person worship services on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. and live streaming broadcast online. You can find a link to the online broadcast and the church bulletin on the church website at [www.newbethelpres.org](http://www.newbethelpres.org).

**TODAY'S SERVICE:** We are happy to have Roger Daugherty with us today. On Christmas Eve, Albert Williams will be our guest speaker. Dr. Angus Shaw will be back on December 31st and we will also have Communion and a congregational meeting that day.

**PASTOR SEARCH:** Continue to be in prayer for our Presbytery, the Committee on Ministry, our Session, and our Congregation as we continue our search for a part-time pastor.

**CLERK OF SESSION NEEDED:** New Bethel needs a Clerk of Session. Please be in prayer as **this most important position must be filled as soon as possible.** The clerk must be an elder, but not necessarily an active one. If you or someone you know would like to take on this role, let any session member know.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** The Christmas Joy Special Offering will be received today. This special offering is Joyful Sharing.

- \* Your offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.
- \* Your offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- \* Your offering provides critical financial assistance to support church workers and their families.
- \* Your offering assists Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Please give as you can to this special offering.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Many of you participated last year as we brought back the New Bethel tradition of Christmas Caroling. We will be caroling again this evening and will meet in the New Bethel parking lot at 4 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Transportation is provided for caroling and a meal will be provided in the fellowship hall afterwards.

**NEW BETHEL T-SHIRTS:** T-shirts featuring our new logo are still available for purchase. There is a sample hanging in the narthex and sizes small through 3X are available. They are \$20 and can be purchased from Byron Barnes. All proceeds go to New Bethel.

**COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY:** Your monetary donations to feed the hungry are appreciated! These donations go to support our local food pantry which is located at Edgefield United Methodist Church. You are encouraged to continue to be a part of this important ministry by making your checks to **New Bethel Presbyterian Church** with "**Community Food Pantry Donation**" on the memo line.

**WEEKLY CHURCH FINANCIALS:** Please give as you are able. Your gifts and offerings can also be mailed to the church at 592 New Bethel Road, Piney Flats, TN 37686. A summary of our current standing against the 2023 budget is shown below:

Weekly Budget Needs	\$ 1,165
December 10th Offering	\$ 495
Difference	\$ -670
Other Giving	\$ 100
Year to Date	\$ -779