



**NEW BETHEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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The Second Sunday of Christmas
January 5, 2025

Mission Statement: To know Christ and make Christ known

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME IN GOD'S NAME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. TOM GOMOLA

OPENING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

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

LITURGY

LARRY SMITH

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"EMMANUEL"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called
Emmanuel; God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

8 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,

9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. Ephesians 3

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed.

Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness:

Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others,
and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls.

Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: "Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us."

Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

My friends, Epiphany is good news!

The Light comes not to sear and blind us but to save us.

Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners.

In his name I declare to you: Your sins are forgiven!

*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.

*OPENING HYMN #31

"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

(Blue Hymnal)

(All Verses)

1. 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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP (**Hebrews 13:16**) "Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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 ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"WHO INVENTED THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT?"

REV. TOM GOMOLA

SERMON SCRIPTURE **Matthew 2:1-12**

- 2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem,
- 2:2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage."
- 2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him,
- 2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 2:5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:
- 2:6 And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."
- 2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.
- 2:8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."
- 2:9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
- 2:11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

***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 #66**

“WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE”

(Blue Hymnal)

(Verses 1, 2, and 5)

1. We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain,
moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
(Refrain)
O... star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright; Westward leading,
still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever,
ceasing never Over us all to reign.
(Refrain)
5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia,
Alleluia Sounds through the earth and skies.
(Refrain)

***GO IN GOD'S NAME**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

“LET'S WORSHIP AND ADORE HIM”

Let's worship and adore Him, Let's worship and adore Him,
Let's worship and adore Him, Christ the Lord. For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.

*Indicates those who are able may stand.

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WELCOME TO NEW BETHEL
January 5, 2025 - January 12, 2025

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

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:

Matt Amick-----some improvement of paralysis – still in serious condition, neighbor of Rodney Smith
Billy Bagnell-----brain tumor; friend of Rodney Smith
Jerry Graham-----A-Fib issues, friend of Katie Wright
Ron Jones-----prostate cancer and long covid, friend of Jon White
Julia Kegley-----recovering and trying to stay healthy
Mike Martin-----recovering from wrist surgery, friend of Becky Wise
Joan Mathes-----serious eye problems and other health issues, aunt of Dickie Jones (lives in Israel)
Sally McPeak-----recently had a fall and is having difficulty walking; on bed rest, church member
Phyllis Painter-----eyes, shoulder and leg issues, friend of New Bethel members
Carolyn Shaw-----mobility issues, wife of Dr Angus Shaw
Debbie Smith-----breast cancer treatment, friend of Becky Wise
Tab Torbett-----is in the VA receiving treatment

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Matthew Wright January 5 Denise Torbett January 9 Sherry Brademeyer January 10

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

Lt. Matthew Musick A naval aviator, will be deployed in January to the middle east area.
His family will continue to live and go to school at his base in Florida while he serves in this new tour of duty.

PRAY FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH:

Holston Presbytery and their work for the larger church
This week: Salem Presbyterian Church, Limestone, TN 37681
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.

TAKE DOWN DECORATIONS: Anyone who is willing and able may help take down our Christmas decorations in the sanctuary after the worship service today.

CORRECTION IN CHURCH DIRECTORY: The phone number for Rev. Tom Gomola in the new church directory is incorrect due to a typographical error. Please change the current number that is listed to the following number as soon as possible: **724-992-0447**

OFFICER INSTALLATION AND SESSION MEETING: Officer installation will be during the morning worship service on January 12th. The January meeting of the session will also be on January 12th, immediately following morning worship.

GOFUNDME FOR LOCAL FAMILY: A local family in Piney Flats recently lost their home, 2 cars, 2 dogs and all of their belongings in a house fire. A GoFundMe account has been established to help them. Any amount would be appreciated. Go to GoFundMe.com and search for Brock Miles family.

ELDER TRAINING: Holston Presbytery is offering COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR (CRE) TRAINING. There are 7 monthly meetings either online or zoom meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, go online to holstonpresbytery.net where you can get more information or register for this program.

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 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 2025 budget is shown below:

Weekly Budget Needs	\$ 1,286
December 29 Offering	\$ 1,090
Other Offerings	\$ 50
Year to Date	\$ -3,827