



**Bethany United Methodist Church**

*The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors*

1860 Hayes Road • PO Box 527 • Gloucester Point VA 23062

**Office Hours: Tues.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.** (closed 12-1pm)

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December 3, 2023

11:00 a.m.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / HOLY COMMUNION**

**WELCOME, EVERYONE!** Thank you for worshiping with us today!

*CELL PHONES: Please remember to silence your phones before the service.*

*HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE: Please see an usher if you need a hearing device.*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY**

Acolyte(s):	Justus Minor (11:00)
Media:	Jeremy Nardozi, Susannah Hogge, Cathy Raines, Kim Song, Chip Neikirk Aidan Dumbrocyo
Altar Guild this month:	Peggy Lewis, Laura Glaze, Laura Vaughan
Liturgist:	Loreen Paiva (11:00)
Trustee Contact this week:	Diana Simmons
Ushers:	Milton Hudgins, Rick Wilson, Kirk Bell (11:00)
Greeters:	Nancy Cooper, David Ayers (11:00)

STEWARDSHIP	11/26
General Fund	2914.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	5.00
Poinsettias	195.00
Bazaar/Upsy Daisy	2000.00
Cemetery Fund (Charlotte Cecil)	50.00
ATTENDANCE	11/26
In-person Worship (8:30-26; 11:00-69)	95
Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube) <i>(YouTube is from two weeks prior to today's service)</i>	64
<b>Total in Worship</b>	<b>159</b>

COUNTING TEAMS	
<b>12/3</b>	<b>Team 6:</b> Dawn Cluts, Betty Durette, Clair Hillard
<b>12/10</b>	<b>Team 1:</b> Mary Kaylor, Ann Byrd, Pat Hasty
<b>12/17</b>	<b>Team 3:</b> Al Burner, Judy Burner, Donna Andersen
<b>12/24</b>	<b>Team 2:</b> Betty Neikirk, Chip Neikirk, Cheryl Roane

**BUMC STAFF DIRECTORY**

Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song, Pastor	call/text 703.625.8025, office: 804.642.2110 email: <a href="mailto:pastor@bethanyumc-gp.org">pastor@bethanyumc-gp.org</a>	Tues. thru Fri., 8am-4pm For pastoral emergencies, call/text 703.625.8025
Dee Dee Wike, Church Office Administrator	office 804.642.2110, cell: 901.831.8534 email: <a href="mailto:admin@bethanyumc-gp.org">admin@bethanyumc-gp.org</a>	Tues. thru Fri., 8am-4pm (Closed 12-1pm for lunch)
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	call/text 757.329.6128 email: <a href="mailto:rfox6@cox.net">rfox6@cox.net</a>	Works from home, by appt.
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	home 804.642.5938, cell 804.413.0211	By appt.
Brad Thomas, Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Office 804.642.2110, call/text 304.483.3403 Email: <a href="mailto:youth@bethanyumc-gp.org">youth@bethanyumc-gp.org</a>	Office Hours vary / by appt.

— *As the music begins, please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.* —

**Intrada** *Once in Royal David's City* UMH No. 250

**Welcome, Announcements, and Introduction** Pastor Paul Song

**\*Call to Worship** Loreen Paiva

Leader: We gather again at the end of the year to wait for the Christ child anew.

**Congregation: We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

Leader: We wait, and we remember the astounding things God has done to save God's people.

**Congregation: We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

Leader: We wait, and we pay attention for signs of God's justice and mercy turning the world upside down.

**Congregation: We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

Leader: We wait, and in our waiting, we learn to live as people of God's promise.

**All: Let us worship in the shocking hope of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.**

**Lighting of Advent Candle** Brad, Cristie, Levon and Avett Thomas

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. "See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." (Isaiah 60:2-3)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

**\*Hymn** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* UMH No. 203

**\*Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version) UMH No. 881

**Opening Prayer** Loreen Paiva

**God of justice and peace, from the heavens, you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever, in whose name, we pray. Amen.**

**Anthem** *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* Carlton R. Young  
Solo by Steve Wike

**Time with Children** Brad Thomas

**Prayer of Illumination** Loreen Paiva  
**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of the Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 64:1-9 Loreen Paiva

**New Testament Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**\*Gospel Reading** Mark 13:24-37

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** “The Spirituality of Waiting” Pastor Paul Song

**Concerns and Prayer of Intercession, Petition “Lord, hear our prayer.”** Pastor Paul Song

### Holy Communion

**Invitation to Table** Pastor Paul Song

**Confession and Pardon** (on screen)

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

**Offering and Offertory Prayer** Pastor Paul Song

**Offertory** *Noël Étranger (Carol from a Foreign Country)* Louis-Claude Daquin  
(1694-1772)

“Far away in old Judaea, lived the gentle Lord of Love.  
Happy children gathered round him, wheresoever he might move,  
And they sometimes left their play just to follow him all day.”  
—Walter J. Mathams

**\*Doxology** UMH No. 95

**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.**

**The Great Thanksgiving** (on the screen)

**The Lord’s Prayer** UMH No. 895

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

*(Communion is served by intinction. After you receive bread, dip it into cup.)*

**Music during Communion** *Footprints in the Snow*, from “*Préludes*,” Book 1; Claude Debussy  
*The Snow is Dancing*, from “*Children’s Corner*” (1862-1918)

Transcribed for organ by Rudy Shackelford  
“Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.”  
—Christina Rossetti (UMH No. 221)

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion** (on screen)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *People, Look East* UMH No. 202

**\*Benediction** Pastor Paul Song

**\*Closing Chorus** *Shalom to You* UMH No. 666

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

**Postlude** *Carillon Paraphrase on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* Albert Gerken  
— Based upon UMH No. 211

