

Celebrating God's Presence

Call to Worship

Leader: Sisters and brothers, rejoice and be glad in this day, for the Lord our God has made it.

People: *Again we say, rejoice!*

Leader: You look happy today. How is it that you radiate such determination and contentment?

People: *Because God is always near.*

Leader: But aren't your lives riddled with stress, complications, hardship, and even danger?

People: *Yes, but we are not worried. Instead, we turn our anxieties into prayers. We are forever grateful that God cares about our concerns and hears our requests.*

All: *Therefore, God's peace, which is far beyond our ability to comprehend, will keep our hearts and minds safe in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Hymn

Joy to the world

No. 318, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

—Robin Wentworth Mayer, pastor
Marion Church of the Brethren
Marion, Indiana

Text for today: *"Rejoice in the Lord* always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:4-7, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philipians 4:4-7 (4); Luke 3:7-18.

Cover design by Paul Stocksdale; © 2018 Church of the Brethren
12-16-18, Third Sunday of Advent. Printed in the USA
Worship resource © 2018 Brethren Press. www.brethrenpress.com



BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship December 16, 2018 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Pastorale in F – C *J. S. Bach*
“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” *Paul Manz*
(In dulci jubilo)

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER Jeff Carr
Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Back of Bulletin

PROCLAIMING

OFFERING
Invitation
Offertory Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.
Meditation on: “See, Amid the Winter’s Snow” *John Barr*

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

ADVENT LITURGY
Story of Joy Shane Brubaker and Crystal Stone
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
Scripture Reading Isaiah 12:2-6 *NRSV*

***HYMN # 318** *Joy to the world* ANTIOCH

CHILDREN’S MUSICAL

“The Unfriendly Beasts”

by Ruth Elaine Schram & Scott Schram

(See Insert for Cast Info)

***HYMN # 212** *O come, all ye faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

CHILDREN’S TIME Jeff Carr
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.

ANTHEM How Far Is It To Bethlehem? *arr. Stan Pethel*
Andrea Nolley, flute

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN # 201** *Hark! the herald angels sing* MENDELSSOHN

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Vieux (Old) Noël *Cesar Franck*
(from L’Organiste)

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

TODAY’S ANTHEM TEXT: *Traditional English Carol*

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stableroom lit by a star?
Can we see the little Child, is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch may we go in?
May we stroke the creatures there, oxen and sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will He know we’ve come so far just for His sake?
Great kings may have precious gifts, and we have naught;
Little smiles and little tears are all we’ve brought.
For all weary children Mary must weep,
Here on His bed of straw, sleep, children, sleep.
How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

December 16-22, 2018 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Sun.	9:30 & 10:30 a.m.	Blood Pressure Clinic	Lounge
	Noon	Properties Reorganization Meeting	Open Door Room
	3:00	Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Concert	Sanctuary
	6:30	All Youth Christmas Party	Youth Room
Mon.	6:30	BRCS Middle & High School Concert	Sanctuary
Tues.	6:30	BRCS K-5 Concert	Sanctuary
	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	2:00	Pastor's Book Study	Lounge
Thurs.	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– December 23, 2018 – *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: "Preparing the Way...of Love"

Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are available to be picked up this morning. Anyone who would like offering envelopes for 2019 but has not had them in the past should notify our Interim Financial Secretary, Karissa Hunt. Weekly and monthly envelopes are available. Also, if you're interested in having your contribution made to the church electronically, forms are available in the church office or you may speak with Karissa.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

Announcements for the December 23 & 30 and January 6 bulletins are due by Thursday, December 20, at noon.

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Karissa Hunt – Interim Financial Secretary

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Josh Eye – Interim Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Decorator – Anita Beckman, Linda Dean, Bea Miller

Fellowship Host – Mac Bair

Deacon Caregiver – Andrea Miracle

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Van Driver – Teshome Molalenge

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/9/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 22 11:00 – 220 Sunday School: 134

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$17,460.87
Loose Offering	581.00
Food Pantry	25.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	29.00
Christmas Offering	620.00
Tree Lights of Love	375.00
Wednesday Night Meals	321.00
Seekers Sunday School Class	177.00
Altruistic Sunday School Class	10.00
Friendship Circle	75.00
John & Anna Barr Donation	300.00
Cliff & Valley Keplinger Memorial Fund	200.00
Denny Eye Memorial Fund	260.00

LOVELIGHT information and money are due this Wednesday, December 19, to be included in the December 23 bulletin. Envelopes are available from the literature rack.

“THE UNFRIENDLY BEASTS”

by Ruth Elaine Schram & Scott Schram

Gentle Donkey – Malachi Houff

Mary – Electa Tasillo-McLaughlin

Joseph – Brett Eye

Innkeeper – Rowan Bair

Caralee Cow – Shelby Eye

Mayor Mouse – Mikah Overman

Charlie Chicken – Bryce Driver

Sheary Sheep – Andie Neher

Tiffany Lamb – Sara Teklay

Grumpaw Goat – Gabe Carr

Stable Animals

Yotam Daniel, Grady Bair, Nate Carr, Ellie Dalrymple
Abby Nelson, Amani Overman, Shaley Propst

Narrators

Sara Teklay, Cooper Bair, Gabe Carr, Bryce Driver

Director – Marianne Houff

Pianist – Jesse Hopkins

Assistant – Gladys Remnant