



Bethany United Methodist Church  
*The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors*  
 1860 Hayes Road • PO Box 527 • Gloucester Point VA 23062  
**Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 am–3:00 pm** (closed 12-1pm)  
 Phone: 804.642.2110  
**Email:** admin@bethanyumc-gp.org; **Website:** www.bethanyumc-gp.org

**VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY**

Acolyte: Regina Berry  
 Media: Scott Berry, Jeremy Nardoizzi, Susannah Hogge, Cathy Raines, Aidan Dumbrocyo  
 Altar Guild this month: Ann Byrd, Betty Durette, Sylvia Ransone  
 Liturgist: Kevin Kiley  
 Trustee Contact this week: Don Thomas  
 Ushers: Milton Hudgins, Kirk Bell  
 Greeters: Pauline Reimold, Tom Smith  
 Counting Team: Al Burner, Judy Burner, Donna Andersen

STEWARDSHIP	12/29
General Fund	5107.00
Endowment Fund (in memory of Doris Luther)	50.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	25.00
ATTENDANCE	12/29
In-person Worship - 8:30 am	25
In-person Worship - 11:00 am	41
Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube)	74
Total in Worship	140

**BUMC STAFF DIRECTORY**

Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song, Pastor	Call/text 703.625.8025, office: 804.642.2110 Email: pastor@bethanyumc-gp.org	Tues. thru Fri., 9am-3pm For pastoral emergencies, call/text 703.625.8025
Jimmy Mackey, Church Office Administrator	Office 804.642.2110, call/text: 804.241.4130 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org	Mon. thru Fri., 9am-3pm (Closed 12-1pm for lunch)
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	Call/text 757.329.6128 Email: rfox6@cox.net	By appointment
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	Home 804.642.5938, cell 804.413.0211	By appointment.

All Services May be Viewed on:



January 5, 2025

11:00 a.m.

**Bethany United Methodist Church**  
**Epiphany Sunday | Communion Sunday**

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

— *As the music begins, please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.* —  
*\*Please stand as you are able and please silence your mobile devices.*

**Intrada** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* UMH 247

**Welcome and Announcements** Pastor Paul Song

**\*Call to Worship** Kevin Kiley

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise, shine; for your light has come."

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *We Three Kings* UMH 254

**\*Affirmation of Faith** The Apostle's Creed UMH No. 881

**Opening Prayer** Kevin Kiley

**Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls,**

**You brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

**Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through Him who is the true Light and the bright and morning star, even Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Anthem** *"Story of the Wise Men"* Rodger Strader  
 arr. by Bob Krogstad

**Prayer of Illumination**

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 60: 1-6 Kevin Kiley  
**New Testament Reading** Luke 2: 1-12  
The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Year of the Song of Epiphany" Pastor Paul Song

**Concerns and Prayer of Intercession, Petition "Lord, hear our prayer."**

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation to Table** Pastor Paul Song

**Confession and Pardon** (on screen)

**Offering and Offertory Prayer** Pastor Paul Song

**Offertory** Hymn: "When Jesus Came to Jordan" Martin Luther (1541)  
Prelude on "When Jesus Came to Jordan" J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Celebrating the Baptism of the Lord, January 12<sup>th</sup>

**\*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 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 the bread, please dip it into the cup.)

**Music during Communion** *Fantasy on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"* Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Based upon UMH No. 247, Celebrating Epiphany Sunday

**Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion** (on screen)

**\*Hymn** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* UMH 251

**\*Benediction** Pastor Paul Song

**\*Closing Chorus** *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel. (Repeat 1x)

**Exodus** *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* UMH 248  
"God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led,  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*"

---

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR EPIPHANY

Epiphany, the festival commemorating Christ's manifestation to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi — or three wise men — is celebrated annually on January 6th.

One of the finest chorales (or hymns) for Epiphany was penned by Philipp Nicolai, a Lutheran theologian, poet, and composer. *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* (UMH No. 247) first appeared in 1599 as part of a volume of meditations on death and eternal life, Nicolai's response to the Black Plague which had devastated his home in Westphalia (north-west Germany). This chorale is somewhat of a departure from the bold, confident, objective hymns of Martin Luther and introduces the sentiment of the soul's love for the Heavenly Bridegroom. Nicolai's text is alive with references to the light which Christ brings into the world, such as "Morning Star," "Light Divine," and "heavenly Brightness."

These visual metaphors are translated into musical motifs by the God-given genius of Dietrich Buxtehude. In Protestant church music history, Buxtehude ranks as the most important predecessor of Johann Sebastian Bach, who at age twenty walked over 200 miles to study with him. Buxtehude's sublime *Chorale Fantasy on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"* dances into the light with the rhythm of the jig, borrowed from popular music of the 17th century.

Listen with open hearts and open minds and be enlightened!

—Rudy Shackelford

