



Bethany United Methodist Church
1860 Hayes Road , Gloucester Point VA 23062
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 am–3:00 pm
Phone: 804.642.2110
Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org; Website: www.bethanyumc-gp.org

VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY

Media: Scott Berry, Jeremy Nardozi, Susannah Hogge, Aidan Dumbrocyo
Altar Guild this month: Pauline Reimold, Lynne Barnes, Diana Simmons
Liturgist: Loreen Paiva
Trustee Contact this week: Tom Barnard
Greeters: Mitchell & Barbara Duntson
Ushers: Milton Hudgins, Kirk Bell
Counting Team: Dawn Cluts, Betty Durette, Clair Hillard

STEWARDSHIP	12/21
General Fund	5308.83
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	300.00
ATTENDANCE	12/21
In person Worship – 10:00 am	119
Christmas Eve Worship	91
Online Worship	89
Online Worship Christmas Eve	58

BETHANY STAFF

Rev. John Choi, Pastor	Office: 804.642.2110; Cell: 804-384-3521 Email: johnchoi@vaumc.org
Jimmy Mackey, Church Office Administrator	Office 804.642.2110, call/text: 804.241.4130 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	Cell: 757.329.6128 Email: foxysander@outlook.com
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	Home: 804.642.5938, Cell: 804.413.0211
Ellie Fountain, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries	Office: 804-642-2110 Email: youth@bethanyumc-gp.org



December 28, 2025

11:00 a.m.

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1st Sunday after Christmas
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 *Sing We Now of Christmas (Noël Novelet)* French Carol, UMH 237

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John Choi

***Call to Worship** Loreen Paiva
Leader: Christ is born; give him glory!
Congregation: Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!

Leader: O you earth, sing to the Lord!
All: O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified

***Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* UMH 234

Responsive Reading

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

All Services May be Viewed on:



Opening Prayer

Loreen Paiva

O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem (Praise Team)

Noel

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Redman

Children’s Time (All Children are invited to attend Children’s Church afterwards)

Ellie Fountain

Concerns and Prayer of Intercession, Petition “Lord, hear our prayer.”

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.

Meditation

Variations on a Noël, Theme: Noël Nouvelet (UMH 237)
Variations No. 1-9

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

*Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

UMH 229

*Scripture Reading

Hebrews 2: 10-18

Loreen Paiva

Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Why God Became One of Us”

Pastor John Choi

Affirmation of Faith

UMH 889

Leader: There is one God
and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus,
who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.
ALL: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance:
That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,
and was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.
Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen
Offering and Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Variations on a Noël, Variation No. 10-Fugato

Marcel Dupré

*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.

*Hymn

The First Noel

UMH 245

*Benediction

Pastor John Choi

*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

Cold December Flies Away

UMH 233

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

Our instrumental music for today comprises one monumental work, *Variations on a Noël* by Marcel Dupré. Divided between the Meditation and Offertory, it consists of ten variations on the ancient French Christmas carol titled *Noël Nouvelet* (UMH No. 237). While it was written in 1922, Dupré’s piece pays homage to a school of organist-composers who flourished in France in the 17th and 18th centuries. Nicolas-Antoine Lebègue, Jean-François Dandrieu, Louis-Claude Daquin, and Claude Balbastre dazzled their audiences with brilliant improvisations and compositions based on carols from Provence, a region famous for medieval poetry and courtly traditions.

Although the composition of noëls ended with the French Revolution, this delightful genre was revived in the late 19th century by César Franck and Alexandre Guilmant and reached its apotheosis with Dupré’s *Variations on a Noël*. Having won the coveted Grand Prix de Rome in 1914, Dupré began his rise to fame with international recital tours in which he performed the complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach from memory – an astonishing feat which had been Dupré’s ambition since childhood! His *Variations on a Noël* is patterned on Bach’s “*Goldberg*” *Variations* insofar as freely written variations alternate with strict canons. Dupré’s sovereign mastery of Bachian counterpoint is particularly impressive in the finale, Variation No. 10, where at one point the fugue subject derived from the carol tune is played at three different tempos simultaneously! This passage leads to an overpowering climax on full organ that evokes the cascading peals of a great carillon.

In the opening statement of the theme and the following nine variations Dupré explores a fascinating range of emotions and tone-colors, building inevitably to the climax just described. From the most subdued and somber to piquant, scintillating registrations, the music makes cunning use of the organ’s full resources – in this case, the French Romanic organ developed by Aristide Cavaillé-Coll, which puts a virtual symphony orchestra at the organist’s hands and feet. Such an instrument Marcel Dupré commanded at the Church of St. Sulpice in Paris from 1914 until his death at age 85 in 1971. – Rudy Shackelford

