



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, March 3, 2024

The Third Sunday in Lent

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

In God whose word I praise :: I am not afraid

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #555

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Into the house of God we are called to enter,

A: to worship and receive the gift of grace.

L: As we step towards this sacred space,

A: we acknowledge all that can distract or exploit.

L: God calls upon us to cleanse our houses of all that does not find its source in God's love.

A: Together we give ourselves in worship and right relations with our neighbor. Let us worship God.

*OPENING PRAYER:

O God of temples and tables turned over, we enter this sacred space of worship seeking your transformation and healing. Make us ready for the kind of turned upside down world you are seeking to build among us. We have come to this place of worship to be changed, so turn over our tables and make us whole. In the name of Jesus our savior. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #21 (with recording) “Great is the Lord”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.

**Wise and welcoming God,
You are always seeking us out,
yet we confess we are easily distracted from your presence.
We envy those who are successful in the world’s terms,
and pursue our own desires.
We fail to question the cost of our desires
to the earth or those in need.
Forgive us, O God.
Re-awaken us to your purposes
and re-ignite our commitment to pursue them
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

(time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Apostle Paul wrote that the Cross of Christ is foolishness to many,
but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.
By this power, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God for the wisdom to live as forgiven people. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558 “Gloria Patri”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Psalm 19 – p. 600 in hymnal (Leader will read odd verses, people read even)

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON

*HYMN #420 (2x)

"Change My Heart, O God"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(God's table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION
PRAYER
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.
Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.
As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread,
may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and
hope. Amen.**

*COMMUNION RESPONSE #525 Refrain only "One Bread, One Body"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change goes to OCWM: Our Church's Wider Mission)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #438 v.1 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Lord Jesus, you challenge your followers to offer God commitment and
gratitude. Receive our gifts as an expression of our commitment to you and
your ministry. Use all that we can give to offer hope and healing in the world
you love. Amen.**

*CLOSING SONG "Go Now in Peace"

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.
Know he will guide you, in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.***

***God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. A-men, A-men, A-men.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Choir News:**
Come and join us to sing on Easter Sunday (3/31) and Confirmation Sunday (4/21). We will be practicing on 3/10 and 3/24 after the service.
- Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD next Saturday night, March 9!
- Bethlehem's Loads of Love Laundry Ministry has seen an increase in clients and cost in recent months. We are currently aiding TWO clients with medical conditions that result in large amounts of soiled laundry. Your financial support of the program is needed to continue providing this important service in our community. The donation jug is located near the double doors to the sanctuary.
- Summer Camp time is Approaching! Daycholah Center and other UCCI camps are booking for campers and ALSO hiring staff for the summer! (Perfect for college students!) Please let Pastor Randy if you'd like more information about summer camp.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sunday, March 3 – Drive Thru Chili Dinner – 11a-1pm – St. James UCC – Newton
- **29:11 International Exchange** is returning to Sheboygan March 6 – March 17. The choir is a music ministry based in South Africa and the United States and is comprised of singers and musicians from cities across South Africa. Their visit will culminate in a concert at The Stephanie Weill Center on Friday, March 15 at 7:00 pm. The concert is free and open to the public. See the bulletin board for more information.
- Friday, March 8 – Drive Thru Fish Boil – St. Nazianz Fire Station – 3:00-7:30pm
- Sat. March 9 - Saron UCC Brat Fry and Cornhole Tournament -11a-4p - Laack's Hall, Johnsonville
- March 8 and 9 -Mission and service opportunity: Feed my Starving Children –@ First United Lutheran Church – Sheboygan. Info on "Missions" bulletin board.
- Do you or someone you know provide care for an elderly parent or other family member? The Manitowoc County Aging and Disability Resource Center is holding "The Powerful Tools for Caregivers" workshop. The workshop will be held on Wednesdays from 9a-11:30am – beginning March 13 and going to April 17- at the Manitowoc Sr. Center. Please see the bulletin board for details.
- Saturday, April 6. – Women's day at Zion Lutheran, New Holstein. Details on the bulletin board.

2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

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Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Those struggling with health issues:

Mason Kannell

Sarah Arnold

Heidi Konen

Brenda Voland

Darlene Horneck

Helen Henning

Tom Lefeber

Jessica Horneck

Dawson Horneck

Nancy - (Shirley's daughter in law)

Jaxxen Kane

Tom Brickbauer

Marie Rietbrock

Daisy Sippel

Renee

Dana

Mary Beth Molitor

Crystal

Gary Steinhardt

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by war and violence around the world.

The family and friends of 3 year-old Elijah Vue, Two Rivers.

Where does my OCWM contribution go?

In addition to funding operations at the Conference and Association levels, OCWM funds support CHHSM partners. (Council for Health and Human Service Ministries)

There are 10 partners in WI. This week we highlight **Cedar Communities of West Bend!**

From their website: *Over the years, we have grown to be the region's largest faith-based, not-for-profit senior living community—supporting our friends and neighbors as they live their best lives. Our natural settings, faith-based mission, and high-quality services afford seniors the opportunity to live a more purposeful, fulfilled life among family and friends.*

Lenten Schedule: (For your refrigerator)

Wednesday, March 6 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Mid-week worship

Wednesday, March 13 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6pm Service Project; 6pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 20 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Mid-week worship

Thursday, March 28 – 6pm Maundy Thursday Seder Meal worship

- We will participate in a simple seder meal as a means of understanding the traditions and practices Jesus would have practiced as he arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover.
- Please note that the meal is part of the worship program and not intended as “dinner.”
- You MUST sign up by Mar 17 so we can purchase enough of the required items.

Friday, March 29 – 6pm Good Friday Worship @ St. Peters UCC-Kiel

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 3/3: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; “GAME DAY!!” following worship

Monday 3/4: 5pm Loads of Love ministry; ~Happy Anniversary Gary & Lynette Steinhardt!

Tuesday 3/5: ~Happy Anniversary Jeff & Jennifer Holz!

Wednesday 3/6: 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30p Lenten Worship Service; ~Happy Birthday Mason Wempner!

Thursday 3/7: ~Happy Birthday Dylan Jeanty!

Friday 3/8:

Saturday 3/9:

Sunday 3/10: 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Book Study; 9:30am Worship

**March Pantry Items:
Box of Pasta, Noodle, Rice or Crackers**