



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

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

Lord, I thank you for answering me :: you have become my salvation

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please gather in the fellowship hall prior to worship. Following the opening liturgy we will sing and process in while waving our palm branches. (Use caution when waving branches)

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***OPENING PRAYER:**

L: Christ is with us

P: Christ is in our midst

L: let us pray,

All: Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph - not the city made by human hands, but the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory forever. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray: **O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. In these events of defeat and victory, you have sealed the closeness of death and destruction, of humiliation and exultation. We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come, and that Christ will come again Amen! Come, Christ Jesus!**

L: Let us go forth in peace!

P: In the name of Christ, Amen!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

1. All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and
anthems
Before You we present.

2. Thou art the King of Israel
Thou David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name
comest,
The King and Blessed One.

To thee before thy passion
They sang their hymns of

praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

3. Thou didst their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who all in good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King!

All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN #187 all "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (wave branches)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to be servants yet we confess we like to be served. You call us to give ourselves away for love's sake, yet we confess we like to hang on to what we have. We can't imagine following you to the cross. As we see your cross looming, we wonder, Is this what you have in mind for us?

(time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said: I do not call you servants any longer, but I have called you friends. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Christ has laid down his life for us and invites us to love one another as he has loved us.

Trust his love to give you strength and make you new.

Hosanna to the King of kings!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558

"Gloria Patri"

**Glory be to the Father, And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 118 vs 1-2; 19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say,

'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

**This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the LORD's doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God,

and he has given us light.

**Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

SERMON

*HYMN #184 vs 1-5 “Were you There?”

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, compared with the gift you gave for our sake, what we offer today seems so small. Bless our gifts with your love so that they accomplish more than we can even imagine. Bless our lives, too, so that what we do and say will show we have the commitment to follow you, whatever the cost. 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:

PIZZA PARTY with ICE CREAM SUNDAES

Sunday, April 14 following worship service

Everyone is invited

See the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Sponsored by Merry Christians

- 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. Or go to ucci.org

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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

Deacon/Secretary - Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

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:

William Baldwin (Randy's uncle)
Ronnie Hickman
Dale Christel

Those struggling with health issues:

Nancy Zimmermann	Brad Westphalen
Nancy Henschel	Gary Steinhardt
Mason Kannell	Jaxxen Kane
Sarah Arnold	Tom Brickbauer
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Crystal
Darlene Horneck	Renee
Helen Henning	Dana
Tom Lefebber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Dawson Horneck
Jamie	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by war and violence around the world: Ukraine, Gaza, Haiti, Sudan, Myanmar
The family and friends of 3 year-old Ellijah Vue, Two Rivers.

Lenten Schedule:

Thursday, March 28 – 6pm Maundy Thursday Seder Meal worship for those who signed up.

- 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.”

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

Sunday, March 31 – 9:30a Easter Worship with Communion

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 **Roundhouse Manor in Kaukauna – part of RHF.org**

From their website: Round House Manor is an affordable housing community for residents 62 and over with several apartments designed to accommodate those who are 18 and over with a mobility impairment.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 3/24: 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Palm Sunday Worship

Monday 3/25

Tuesday 3/26: *~Happy Birthday Doreen Schmidt!*

Wednesday 3/27:

Thursday 3/28: 8:30a BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry; 6pm Seder Worship

Friday 3/29: 6pm Good Friday worship at St Peter's UCC - Kiel

Saturday 3/30: *~Happy Anniversary Joe & Doreen Schmidt!*

Sunday 3/31: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Easter Sunday Worship w/ Communion

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