



How good and
pleasant it is
when brothers
live together
in unity!

Psalm 133:1

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Eastertide

Worship Leaders: The Confirmation Class

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

Extol the Lord our God! :: For the Lord our God is holy!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

“Holy Ground”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (ucc.org)

One: As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief. After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Peace be with you.”

One: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true. After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Here are the marks on my body.”

One: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

Many: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ's peace is with us. We don't need to be afraid.

One: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

Many: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

*OPENING PRAYER:

One: The Risen Christ will transform us!

All: Christ will transform our earthbound worship into an act of glorious praise.

One: The Risen Christ will transform us!

All: Christ will transform our hesitant community into an active, enthusiastic group of friends.

One: The Risen Christ will transform us!

All: Christ will transform our fear of the unknown into a ready spirit of adventure.

One: The Risen Christ will transform us!

All: Christ will transform our self-serving into service of those around us, and of those whose crying needs are brought home to us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #550 (all)

"All Are Welcome"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (<https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>)

Merciful God, we confess our trust in you can weaken, and we become anxious about many things.

We talk about love, but we fear those who differ from us.

We cling to our personal agendas, and neglect your call to serve others, especially when that service costs us something.

Forgive us. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, rekindle our passion for you, so we can witness to your love in all we do. Amen.

(time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (ucc.org)

Leader: Beloved, Jesus comes to us with grace, telling us we can believe.

Because we believe, we can also be empowered to do the work of justice. Yes, the world is heavy. No, the work will never be done. But because we know Christ's peace, we can share it with others.

People: We believe in the grace and peace of Christ. We are forgiven.

Alleluia!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

COMMISSION ADULT MISSION TEAM TO KENTUCKY

(**Marie Mueller, Sarah Schisel,** Fitz Fitzpatrick, Nancy Petzold, Allan Utecht, Janice Morse, Paula DeSmidt, Carol Knoener, Karl Knoener, Jean Dederling, Nancy Boutchard)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 4: 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalms 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

SKIT "Connections" written by Tracy Wells - Performed by Aliyah and Courtney

*HYMN #495 (all) "They'll Know We are Christians"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: Lord Jesus, **Reveal to them your risen presence.**

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 One Great Hour of Sharing)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune “Old Hundredth”

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!
Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death
And given life eternal breath.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Living God, accept these gifts, and the reasons we give them:

**All: to bring purpose where there is hesitancy,
to bring courage where there is struggle,
to bring comfort where there is loss and bereavement,
to bring assurance where there is self-doubt,
to bring justice where there is oppression.**

One: These are the gifts of new life!

All: Amen.

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

*COMMUNION RESPONSE #525 Refrain only

“One Bread, One Body”

*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.**

*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.*

COMMISSIONING

One: Confident that the Risen Christ is with us, we leave this community of the faithful.

**All: Renewed in the Spirit, we will encourage the doubting.
Renewed in the Spirit, we will encourage the apathetic.
Renewed in the Spirit, we will encourage the downhearted.
Renewed in the Spirit, we will encourage those who lack hope.
Renewed in the Spirit, we will be servants and advocates for
Jesus Christ.**

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

Do you know what items Bethlehem saves?

Several Bethlehem organizations save items to enhance their fund raising efforts. These organizations raise money through-out the year to fund their charity giving. There is a poster board set up in the fellowship hall of the things Bethlehem saves. It also tells you where you can place these items. Please consider saving and bringing these items along to church. Thank you!!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- Thursday, April 25 – Smoked Pork Chop Dinner – 4p-6:30p – Saron UCC
- Saturday, April 28 - AYCE Potato and Buttermilk Pancake Supper – 3p-6p – Zion Lutheran, New Holstein
- Wednesday, May 8 – Brat Fry – 4p-7p St. James UCC- Spring Valley

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:

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 Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Dawson Horneck

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 4/7: 8am Sunday School; 8:30am WISE; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion;
~Happy Birthday Marie Mueller!

Monday 4/8: ~Happy Birthday Will Mathes!

Tuesday 4/9: 6:30p Consistory Meeting ~Happy Birthday Sandy Tesch!

Wednesday 4/10:

Thursday 4/11: ~Happy Birthday Trevor Rabe!

Friday 4/12:

Saturday 4/13:

Sunday 4/14: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship followed by PIZZA PARTY! ~Happy Birthday Kerry Rumpff, Brandon Schmitt, Ryan Schmitt, Noah Biwan, Trevor Muehlbauer and Jacob Riesterer!

**March Pantry Items:
Bottle of Hand Soap, Dish Soap or Shampoo**