



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Eastertide
Worship Leaders: 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

Gracious is the Lord :: He is righteous and merciful!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

"Holy Ground"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope as we hear the Words of Jesus Christ.

All: "Peace be with you."

One: When peace and justice seem uncertain, let us hear anew the Words of Jesus Christ.

All: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

One: Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ, whose love, and light dwells within us.

All: Let our lives be witnesses of these things.

One: Help us to be instruments of Christ's peace to all in need of God's healing love.

*OPENING PRAYER:

Risen Christ, create in us a clean heart so that we can meditate in your peace; abide in your mercy; be filled with your justice; and be made new by your love. In your name, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #456 (all)

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, in your infinite wisdom, we are glad that you make all things new. Where there is hate, show your love. Where there is war, bring your peace. Where there is despair, bring your hope. Where there is fear, bring your understanding. Where there is scarcity, bring your abundance. Where there is systemic oppression, bring equal justice for all. By your perfect grace and mercy, make us new. May it be so. Amen.

(time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Loving God, thank you for the assurance of your grace. You grant us all your peace.

Help us to trust in your peace, especially in times of conflict.

Believing you will bring peace in our hearts, and to all the earth.

Guiding us, so that all may come to know Jesus Christ, who is our Prince of Peace. In his name, we pray. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 4

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

² **How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?**

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

³ But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴ **When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.**

- ⁵ Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.
- ⁶ **There are many who say, ‘O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!’**
- ⁷ You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.
- ⁸ **I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.**

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

MESSAGE

*HYMN #406

“Make Me a Channel of your Peace”

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

Petitions end with: In the name of Christ our Risen Lord, **Hear our 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

One: All are invited to give joyously to the church that bears witness to Christ's love.

All: Let us give with a joyful heart.

One: God's loving generous love has given us every good and gracious gift.

All: We offer our gratitude for God's abundant blessings in our lives.

One: Now, let us be a blessing to others in the ways that God has faithfully and generously blessed us.

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

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful witnesses to your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation. 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

Living God, we are witnesses to your love and light.

Your peace is seen in the dawning of each new day. Your equal justice bears witness in the interconnected universe that you have created.

Faithful God, help us to feel the warmth of your loving light in the cooler moments of life.

As we leave this worship service, let us go back into the world renewed as instruments of your loving peace and justice for all. May it be so. Amen.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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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:

Art Matzdorf	Wanda Matzdorf
Nancy Zimmermann	Brad Westphalen
Nancy Henschel	Gary Steinhardt
Mason Kannell	Jaxxen Kane
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Crystal
Darlene Horneck	Renee
Helen Henning	Dana
Tom Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Dawson Horneck
Jim Markelz	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer

Other Concerns:

Victims of war, conflict or unrest: Haiti, Gaza, Ukraine
Earthquake victims in Taiwan.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today 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!

Monday 4/15:

Tuesday 4/16: 6pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday 4/17:

Thursday 4/18:

Friday 4/19:

Saturday 4/20:

Sunday 4/21: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Confirmation

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