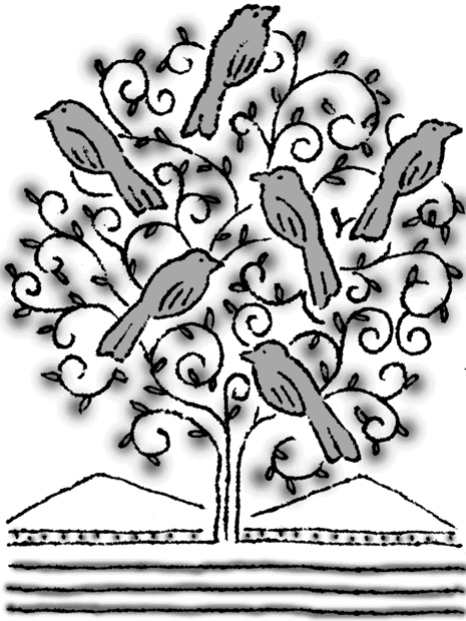


you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows  
and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches  
that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.

The kingdom of God... is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed

M a r k 4 : 3 0 - 3 2



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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or Bethlehem's website at

[www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

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**Sunday, June 16, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**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

***I wait for the Lord :: and in His word I hope***

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549**

**"As We Gather"**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** (adapted from Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15)

**Leader:** It is good to give thanks to the Holy One, to sing praises to your name, O Most High,

**People:** To declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night,

**L:** To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

**P:** For you, O God, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

L: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**P: They are planted in the house of the Holy One; they flourish in the courts of our God.**

L: In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of nectar,

**All: Showing that the Divine One is upright; God is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in the Holy One.**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**Oh God, creator of heaven and earth, who grants us life, may the seeds of wisdom from the ancient sacred texts grow within us so that we may bear good fruit that nourishes a hungry world. May the Holy Spirit of Pentecost descend upon us this day as we give thanks to you Holy One, in Jesus's most precious name we pray. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #263 all

“This Is My Father's World”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Pastoral Leader: As we gather in worship, let us take this moment to consider our needs for transformation and forgiveness. I invite you to quietly reflect on our need for grace. *Time of silent reflection...* Let us pray...

**Dear God, the creator of all things based on love. You created us in your image of love and there have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you but to each other and all of creation. I ask for your forgiveness and from you, present today, my siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ. I thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace and all I do. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

Scripture tells us that we have been shown the way to reconciliation by the Christ which is within us whenever we turn to God for guidance and strength to transform our lives for a better kingdom here on earth.

**May we know that the peace of the Divine grace is always there for us. In the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Tune: Doxology

**Be thou, O God, exalted high, and as thy glory fills the sky  
So let it be on Earth displayed, Till thou art here, as there, obeyed. Amen**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

Thus says the Lord GOD:  
I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.  
I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.  
On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs  
and bear fruit,

and become a noble cedar.  
Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.  
All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.  
I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

### **Mark 4:26-34**

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## SERMON

\*HYMN #465 all

"Pass it On"

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

Petitions end with: Plant seeds of your kingdom in our midst, O God.

**May we bear the fruits of new life.**

**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 “Strengthen the Church” (*The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. – ucc.org* )

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #447 v.1 “All Things are Yours”

**All things are Yours: we make that true, when we return our gifts to you,  
And so we give, and so we share, In Christ’s strong name expressing care.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of small seeds and secret growth, bless the gifts we bring to you. Use them as seeds of new life in our community and in your world. Grow results we cannot even imagine – within us, among us, because of us and beyond us, for the sake of Christ, our Living God. 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

\*\*This morning’s liturgies and prayers are from <https://ucc.org> and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Thank you to everyone who contributed funds for the roof project at the parsonage. The total cost was \$9460 and we raised \$5950 from members and church organization. If you haven't donated yet, but want to, it's not too late! Make your check out to "Bethlehem Maintenance Fund." Thanks for your continued support!
- To those who are reading my ordination paper: THANK YOU! Feel free to write any comments right on the document or on a separate sheet. I would like to receive feedback by July 1 if possible. PS – the topics of the paper are the topics that are required by the association. Thanks, again! – Pastor Randy
- On Sunday, June 30, we will be having a "New Member Sunday." New members will meet at 8:30am and then we will "receive" new members during worship at 9:30. Coffee hour and fellowship to follow! Please attend! Also, please let Pastor Randy know if you would like to join our church!
- Sunday school families received information regarding Vacation Bible School @ St. Mark's UCC on August 13-15 from 9a-12. Transportation to St. Marks will be available. Please let Pastor Randy or Kathy Bowe know if your child will attend.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS** -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- Sat. July 20<sup>th</sup> – 10a-2p – Clements Farewell Party (Long term Mission trip to Africa). Christian Life Church, 300 Rustic Rd., Plymouth
- Friday, Aug. 2 – Faith and Family Night @ Timber Rattlers – see flyer
- August 16-17 – Gospel Music Fest – Hilbert Civic Park – Flyer posted and copies available in the Fellowship Hall

## **2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

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

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

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

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

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

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)



**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Joys:**

The birth of Charly Ann Deignan

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Will Mathes	Ross Westphalen
Nancy Henschel	Brad Westphalen
Art Matzdorf	Wanda Matzdorf
Nancy Zimmermann	Chad Jeanty
Gary Steinhardt	Jessica Horneck
Mason Kannell	Jim Markelz
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Dawson Horneck	Heather
Darlene Horneck	Mary Beth Molitor
Tom Lefeber	Emily (Melissa's cousin)

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer  
Helen Henning

**Other Concerns:** Victims of storms and tornados in US and mudslide in Papua New Guinea.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 6/16:** 9:30am Worship; Happy Father's Day!! ~Happy Birthday Zoe Watson!

**Monday 6/17:** ~Happy Anniversary Jason & Jennifer Brockway!!

**Tuesday 6/18:** ~Happy Birthday Mike Brockway!!

**Wednesday 6/19:** 5pm – Spirit News due to Traci; ~Happy Anniversary Ryan & Sarah Arnold!

**Thursday 6/20:** ~Happy Birthday Bonnie Zorn, Maria Hoban, and Eric Muehlbauer!

**Friday 6/21:**

**Saturday 6/22:** 10am Bethlehem Ladies at Field of Dreams for Bingo; ~Happy Birthday John Schisel!

**Sunday 6/23:** 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Anniversary Lee & Nicole Watson!

**June Pantry Items: Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant or Lotion**