



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, July 14, 2024
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Keyboard: Polly Jeanty

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

Do not be afraid, says the Lord :: for I am with you to deliver you

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it.

The world and those who live in it belong to God.

So hear what God will speak:

God will speak peace to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Then faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

God's salvation is at hand for those who honour him.

May God's glory and justice dwell in our land.

OPENING PRAYER:

**Gracious God, you are the Source of life and love in all creation,
In a world marked by bitterness, you are compassion.
In a culture marked by confusion, you are the truth that sets us free.
Your strength is comfort when we are fearful.
Your wisdom is guidance when we lose our way.
For all that you are and all that you give,
God, our Maker, Christ, our Savior, and Spirit who leads us into life,
we offer you all honor, praise, and worship, now and always. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:

“Do Lord”

I've got a home in Gloryland that (clap) outshines the sun,
I've got a home in Gloryland that (clap) outshines the sun,
I've got a home in Gloryland that (clap) outshines the sun,
Look away beyond the blue.

REFRAIN: Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue.

I took Jesus as my Savior, (clap) you take him too,
I took Jesus as my Savior, (clap) you take him too,
I took Jesus as my Savior, (clap) you take him too,
Look away beyond the blue. REFRAIN

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

**Loving God, in a selfish world, you are generous to those in need.
In the face of injustice, you speak as our conscience.
Instead of vengeance, you call for mercy and reconciliation.
Forgive us when we follow the instincts of the world, rather than the
faithfulness you teach. Strengthen our resolve to live generously,
in action and in attitude. (time of silent reflection...)**

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, we were not made to be perfect; we were created to be good. **In hope,
we affirm that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness.**
Lean into the power of God to do the work that we cannot, **to meet us at our
point of need, and to lead us into the path of new life. Amen**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Jesus Loves Me”

**Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 85: 8-13

- ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- ⁹ **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- ¹¹ **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**
- ¹² The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ **Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

MESSAGE and SELF REFLECTION

Music: "The Blessing" – Symphonic Version – Passion City Church
<https://youtu.be/GrBLSBdL8J0?si=uzvEEa07SWYsBSYN>

LITANY OF GRATITUDE (written by Fran Pratt)

Congregation responds with **"We Give Thanks"** when cued.

HYMN: "Count Your Blessings"

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by. (Refrain)

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. (Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER
"Blessed are you, O God, **for all your Goodness to us.**

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 the Bethlehem Ladies to help support their many service projects throughout the year.)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, growth in gardens and fields this summer speaks of the generosity you have planted within your creation. Bless the gifts we bring, that they too may grow in fruitfulness, and touch lives in need with your generous love, in the name of Christ, our help and our hope. Amen.

CLOSING SONG “This Little Light of Mine”

VERSE 1

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

VERSE 2

Hide it under a bushel, NO!, I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, NO!, I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, NO!, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

VERSE 3

Won't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Won't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Won't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

VERSE 4

Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- “I wish to pass along a special ‘thank-you’ for all the cards and notes that encouraged me during my recovery from a heart attack. Bless you all!” – Will Mathes

- ☐ 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 20th – 10a-2p – Clements Farewell Party (Long term Mission trip to Africa). Christian Life Church, 300 Rustic Rd., Plymouth
- ☐ Sun. July 21 – St. Marks/James Polka and Potluck – 1424 Spring Lake Rd. – 11a Outdoor service, 12p Potluck, 12:30p dancing – see flyer
- ☐ 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

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

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

**PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED
THE BETHLEHEM FAITH COMMUNITY ON JUNE 30!**

- ☐ Heidi Konen
- ☐ Cassie Jeanty
- ☐ The Hemauer family: Hunter, Chelsea, Beau and Dutton
- ☐ The Pennell family: Kyle, Brianna and Case

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE THEM! MEMBERS, PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS SO OUR NEW MEMBERS CAN GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOU.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER "NEW MEMBER RECEPTION" ON JULY 21. SEE PASTOR RANDY TO JOIN!



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

*Our new members!

*The birth of Ethan Ryan Westphalen on June 28. (Parents: Ryan & Erin Westphalen -Grandparents: Jerry & Carol Wehrmann)

Those Grieving:

Tom and Maria (friends of Umlands) – death of Kyle
Family of Robert Spindler (brother of Darlean Rumpff)

Those struggling with health issues:

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

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer
Helen Henning

Doris Mae is now at Willowdale in room 110.
She would welcome any visits or cards.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 7/14: 9:30am Outdoor Worship followed by Church Picnic

Monday 7/15: **Spirit articles due @ 5pm** ~Happy Birthday Dan Wempner! Happy Anniversary Chad & Sara Jeanty!

Tuesday 7/16:

Wednesday 7/17:

Thursday 7/18: ~Happy Birthday Helen Henning!

Friday 7/19:

Saturday 7/20: ~Happy Anniversary Eric & Dawn Muehlbauer!

Sunday 7/21: 9:30am Worship with New Member Reception

**July Pantry Items:
School Supplies**

What are my Blessings from God?

Write words or draw pictures of all the things you're grateful God has given you.



A Blessing Exercise

Blessing is the art of being spiritually present to others in prayer. It is asking for God to surround a particular person or situation with love, healing, and peace.

Take several slow, deep breaths while letting go any tension in your neck and shoulders. Imagine that you are held in God's gentle, loving hands. Let yourself rest there and savor the quiet.

1. Pray for yourself. Focus on the light and warmth of God's love as it surrounds you. Rest in that light and warmth. . Say the following blessing to yourself.

Bless me, God, with your love.

Bless me with your healing.

Bless me with your peace. (Take a moment for several slow, deep breaths.)

2. Pray for a good friend. Bring them to mind as vividly as you are able. In this image, hold them in your heart and extend love and grace to them. Now imagine them in God's gentle, loving hands. Allow them to rest there in God's hands for a moment. Say the following blessing to yourself.

Bless them, God, with your love.

Bless them with your healing.

Bless them with your peace.(Take several deep breaths.)

3. Pray for someone for whom you do not have strong feelings. This may be an acquaintance you cross paths with on occasion but don't know well. Repeat the same blessing from #2
4. Pray for someone you dislike—an enemy. Imagine them in God's loving hands, and try to hold them gently in your heart. Release to God any anger or tension that may arise in you. Let these feelings go by setting them free to God's care. Repeat the same blessing from #2
5. Finally, pray for all four people together—yourself, a friend, an acquaintance, and an enemy. Extend God's blessing further—to everyone around you, to everyone in your neighborhood, to those in your town, and eventually to all people, everywhere. Imagine that we all are held in God's hands, and are sustained by God's love.

Bless all people, everywhere, with your love.

Bless all people with your healing.

Bless all people with your peace.

(Take several deep breaths.)