



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, October 20, 2024

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leader: Lou Ann Norsetter

Organist: 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

When I call to you, O Lord :: you will be with me in times of trouble

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #557 v. 1 "I Just Came to Praise the Lord"

I just came to praise the Lord, I just came to praise the Lo—rd

I just came to praise his Ho--ly Name, I just came to praise the Lord

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Inspired by Psalm 104)

One: Today we gather to worship, with all our hopes, weariness, joys, and concerns swirling within us. We gather to worship One who both ascends above our condition and descends to meet us in the midst of them.

Many: **Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.**

One: We are humbled and grateful that the Majestic God knows our names and seeks our presence.

Many: Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.

One: We raise our spirits as one body, strengthening, fortifying, and encouraging one another as we honor The Holy One's glorious and precious name.

Many: Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.

*OPENING PRAYER

Magnificent God, you are worthy of our praise, reverence, and honor. You come to us, and you come for us. Your embrace saves us from the condemnation of this world. Your tangible example leads us on a path to disrupt the sinful systems of oppression that keep your creation from life abundantly. Your presence assures us that your covenant is everlasting and true. With thanksgiving and awe, we worship you. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: #74

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

PRAYER TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Liberating God, break us free from all the ways this world enslaves and ensnares your people. May our hearts be infused with your compassion. May our works be filled with your generosity. May our lives be testaments that new life in freedom, in love, and in you are possible.

Transform us by your Spirit each day to be the part of you the world needs from us. We trust in your mercy and grace to make room and empower us to make it so. Amen. (Brief silent reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, even now, the Holy One supplies the means to rewrite your story. God will strengthen you in your weakness, direct you in your uncertainty, and encourage you in your weariness. God has formed you, sustains you, and will be with you through it all.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #358

“Only Believe”

**Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe;
Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 91:9-16

⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, ¹⁰ no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

¹¹ **For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹² On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. ¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

¹⁵ **When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

Mark 10:35-45

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" ³⁹ They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

"We're All In" Lou Ann Norsetter

*HYMN #446

"Jesu, Jesu"

PASTORAL PRAYER...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.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

**Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The invitation to give is a gift not a debt. We share our resources because we were created to be mutually dependent upon one another. When we give generously, we demonstrate our faith in God's generosity, provision, and abundance. Therefore, let us give with thanksgiving and love for God and our neighbor.

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for the month of October supports the UCC's annual Neighbors in Need campaign- Hurricane support can be donated at <https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief>)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Give Thanks"

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,
His Son (2 times)**

And now...

**let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done
for us" (2 times)**

Give thanks... (2 times)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Good and Generous God, receive these gifts as an offering of our love and lives. May they be used to benefit your people and to honor your holy name. 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

We go in the freedom of new life in Christ.

We go in the liberty that transcends the ways of the world.

We go in the hope, power, and peace of the good news. Amen.

POSTLUDE

**This morning’s prayers and liturgies are from: ucc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bethlehem is holding a “Thanksgiving Drive” to support the clients served by Immanuel’s food pantry at Thanksgiving time. During the month of October, please bring the following items. You can also donate \$\$ or Walmart scrip cards that will be used to purchase perishable items.
 - Boxed mashed potatoes
 - Canned Green beans
 - Canned Corn
 - Canned yams
 - Jello
 - Marshmallows (for the yams)
 - Pie filling - pumpkin or apple
 - (The pantry has adequate stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, and gravy)
 -
- **New Holstein First Responders raffle** – there are raffle tickets available in the fellowship hall. Please note for entry directions.
- **The United Church Men and Women will hold their annual scholarship banquet** at St. John’s UCC in Sheboygan on Thursday, October 24th at 6:30pm. WI Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert is the keynote speaker. (Pastor Randy will be receiving a scholarship at this meeting.) Please see Pastor Randy for tickets. They are \$20 each. *****Kathy has room in her car if anyone needs a ride!!***

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- **Ham Dinner** - Sunday, Oct 20, 11a-12:30pm – ST. James UCC- Newton – Carryout only. \$14/meal – See flyer

- **“The Singular They”** an educational event to help persons interested in better understanding issues of gender identity will be held at Bethel UCC on October 22 at 6:30pm. Billed as “a casual safe space for adults to ask tough questions and acquire tools and information to better understand and advocate for all God’s people.”

- **Craft and Vendor Fair** – Sat. Nov. 2 – 8:30am-3pm – Salem UCC, Plymouth

- **Drive-Thru Brat Fry** – Sunday, Nov. 3 – 11:30a-2:30pm at St. John’s UCC (Church St, New Holstein) Please pre-order by Oct 24 (920-313-0531) See Flyer

- **Fall Fare** – Sat, Nov. 9 – 9:00am-2:00pm. First Congregational in Plymouth – Craft Sale – Silent Auction – Soup to Go – Baked Goods

- **100th Anniversary Celebration Concert** – Grace UCC – Kohler – Sunday, November 10 at 1pm. Refreshments following. See Flyer.



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Those Grieving:

Family of Doris Mae Ninmer

Those struggling with health issues:

Will Mathes	Louie Bowe
Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets	Nancy Zimmermann
Brad Westphalen	Butch Waack
Jessica Horneck	Jim Markelz
Gary Steinhardt	Marie Rietbrock
Shari	Tom Lefeber
Heidi Konen	Mary Beth Molitor
Dawson Horneck	Darlene Horneck

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

Other: Those affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com
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Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com

**Thank you for all the
cards, prayers, visits &
phone calls.**

**I sure appreciate all your
well wishes during my
recovery.**

Louie Bowe

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 10/20: 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:30 Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Worship;
****SPIRIT NEWS DUE @ 5pm**** *Happy Anniversary Joe & Mary Beth Molitor!*

Monday 10/21:

Tuesday 10/22: *Happy Birthday Harold Shaver!*

Wednesday 10/23:

Thursday 10/24: 9am Immanuel Food Pantry; 6:30pm UCMW Scholarship Banquet @ St. Johns's Sheboygan; *Happy Anniversary Randy & Melissa Koppenhaver!*

Friday 10/25:

Saturday 10/26:

Sunday 10/27: 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:00 am Confirmation Class; 9:30am Worship;
6pm Rural Church Fellowship @ Bethel; *Happy Birthday Aliyah Arnold, Tyson Arnold, and Steve Deignan!*

**October Pantry Items:
Cleaning Supplies**