



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Darren Beachy**

**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

***Praise the name of the Lord :: for his name is exalted***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

**O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How precious is God's steadfast love!

**All: We will find refuge in the shelter of God's wings.**

One: Come and feast on God's abundance.

**All: We will drink from the river of God's delights.**

One: For with God is the fountain of life;

**All: And in God's light we will see light.**

One: Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!

**All: We will bring God our prayers and our praise with hearts full of love.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**God of light and life, you shine into our lives in your Son, Jesus.**

**Your Spirit strengthens us to face whatever this year will hold.**

**And so we come to praise you for your love and grace which transforms our days and our lives, and for your wisdom which enlightens truth for our times. Shine through us, we pray, so that we may bear the light of Jesus in this world you love. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #27

“How Great Thou Art”

PRAYER OF NEW LIFE AND TRANSFORMATION

**Gracious God, we live in the tension between expectation and reality.**

**Sometimes, we navigate that tension with hope and clarity. At other times, we fester in doubt, disappointment, and uncertainty. Help us to release our need to control and enable us to embrace the possibilities. May our trust in your goodness and the power you have poured into us embolden our faith. Amen. (moment of silent reflection)**

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, know that God's grace meets us at our point of need with encouragement.

**Circumstances change, and that's the nature of God's creative work.**

Receive the gift of new life with the unexpected experiences it brings.

**God is with us and equips us for the journey. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #82 v. 1 “O Come let us Adore Him”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Psalms 148 - Praise for God's Universal Glory**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all his angels;**

**praise him, all his host!**

- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!
- <sup>4</sup> **Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.
- <sup>6</sup> **He established them for ever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,
- <sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**
- <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!
- <sup>10</sup> **Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**
- <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- <sup>12</sup> **Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup> **He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

### **Micah 6:6-8 - What God Requires**

'With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

## CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON "How Can I Praise the Lord in a Strange Land?"

\*HYMN #436 "O Master, Let me Walk with Thee"

## PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER #403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us  
grace.**

## 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.**

POST PRAYER RESPONSE #403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE To tune of the Doxology  
**Oh God, may we who bear your name,  
By gentle love your grace proclaim.  
Christ's gift of peace on earth declare,  
And your anointing Spirit share. Amen**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of grace and mercy, receive all our gifts, offered in thanksgiving.  
We share the fruit of our labours with you,  
asking that you will multiply their effects in and through the Church.  
And we share the fruit of our time and talent,  
seeking to know how you would have us serve in Jesus' name.**

**\*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/COMMISSIONING**

**POSTLUDE**

**\*\*This morning's prayers and liturgies are used with permission from: [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Thank you very much for the thoughtful card and Amazon gift card as I recovered from the kidney donation. My recovery went quicker than expected and my daughter is doing far better than what we hoped for. Thank you! - Darren Beachy
- Dear Members of Bethlehem: Thank you so much for all your love and support as I have journeyed through the discernment process. I look forward to celebrating my ordination with you on **February 15 at 1:00pm**. It is my privilege to be your pastor! – Randy
- Bethlehem's annual meeting is next Sunday following a shortened service. Please join and be involved in the "business" of your church.
- Packets of 10 tickets for the 2025 Chili Supper are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign out for packets which you can sell. Payment is due by February 5, 2025.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Sunday, Jan 19 – 11a-2pm – Rural Churches Mission Trip Soup Cook-off – Laack's Tavern and Ballroom. (see flyer)

- St Mark's/St. James Mission Trip Team Brat Fry at Miesfeld's 9am-2pm on Saturday, February 15th.
- Rural Church Fellowship's Sheepshead Tournament, 1-3pm at Bethlehem UCC on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>
- 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Holy Trinity Parish Perch Fry – Friday, Feb 21, 2025 – School Hill – Dine in serving from 3:30-7pm, Carry-outs from 11a-1p and 3:30p-7p – call 773-2380 to order carryout. Grilled cheese plates, tortes, and raffle tickets also available.
- Saturday, March 8 – InCourage Annual Domestic Chef Charity event – 4pm – 10pm - See flyer for details
- You can help support the CA wildfire victims at: <https://support.ucc.org/california-wildfires-2025>



***Those in our thoughts and prayers:***

**Those Grieving:**

Mark Beitzel  
Gary Steinhardt

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Gary Rabe	Julie and Addison
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Brad Westphalen	Kurt (Randy's cousin)
Jessica Horneck	Darlene Horneck
Marie Rietbrock	Mary Beth Molitor
Tom Lefeber	Dawson Horneck
Dana	

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Nimmer      Helen Henning

**2025 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

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### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 1/19:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; *Happy Birthday Shelby Aschenbach and Hailey Wirtz! \*\*Spirit Articles Due\*\**

**Monday 1/20:**

**Tuesday 1/21:** *Happy Birthday Katrina Rumpff!*

**Wednesday 1/22:** *Happy Birthday Nancy Zimmermann!*

**Thursday 1/23:** 9:00 BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry

**Friday 1/24:**

**Saturday 1/25:**

**Sunday 1/26:** 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00 Confirmation; 9:30am Worship followed by Annual Meeting

**January Pantry Items:  
Can of Soup**