



1 Corinthians 12:27, NRSV

## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, January 26, 2025**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Worship Leader: Pastor Randy Koppenhaver**  
**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

***I love you, O Lord, my strength :: the Lord is my rock and my deliverer***

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

L: The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

**P: We gather to hear God's liberating word of love.**

L: Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

**P: May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.**

L: May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

**P: And may it be enacted in our lives!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

One: You call us together,

**All: As a Christian community.**

One: You inspire us to prayer and praise,

**All: As brothers and sisters in the faith.**

One: You challenge us to listen and learn,

**All: As searchers for the truth.**

One: You invite us to support each other,

**All: As compassionate friends.**

One: You confront us,

**All: With the injustice of our neighborhood and nation.**

One: You send us out,

**All: To show the face of Christ to a hurting world. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #552

“We Gather Together”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Psalm 19** – p. 600 of hymnal – Leader will read odd verses, people read even

**1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a - One Body with Many Members**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior

member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

### LITANY OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

In Christ, the world is reconciled to God who entrusts to us the message of reconciliation. As the ambassadors of Christ's reconciling work, we make our petitions to God:

When we pray together from our diverse traditions,  
**Holy One who makes us one,**  
**make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

When we read the Bible together  
in our diversity of language and context,  
**Revealing One who makes us one,**  
**make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

When we establish relations of friendships  
among Jews, Christians and Muslims,  
when we tear down the wall of indifference and hatred,  
**Merciful One who makes us one,**  
**make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

When we work for justice and solidarity,  
when we move from fear to confidence,  
**Strengthening One who makes us one,**  
**make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

Wherever there is suffering through war and violence,  
injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice,  
poverty and hopelessness,  
drawing us near to the cross of Christ and to each other,

**Wounded One who makes us one,  
make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

With Christians of the Holy Land,  
we too are witnesses to the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem,  
his ministry in Galilee, his death and resurrection,  
and the descent of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem;  
when we yearn for peace and justice for all  
in the sure and certain hope of your coming Kingdom,  
**Triune One who makes us one,  
make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

— from the **Ecumenical Worship Service 2011** jointly prepared and published by  
*The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity* and *The Commission on Faith and Order of the  
World Council of Churches*. Posted on the **World Council of Churches** website.

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

One: We offer to you, O God,  
**All: Our gifts, for your blessing;  
our talents, committed for Jesus;  
our community, strengthened for service. Amen.**

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”

BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

BUSINESS MEETING

\*\*This morning’s prayers and liturgies are used with permission from: [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and Sparks, David. Prayers to Share: Year C. Wood Lake Books, 2003

### **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
- 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:**

- 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:**

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

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

**Monday 1/27:**

**Tuesday 1/28:** *Happy Birthday Lora Mathes and Gary Rabe!!*

**Wednesday 1/29:**

**Thursday 1/30:**

**Friday 1/31:**

**Saturday 2/1:** *Happy Birthday Tammy Aschenbach and Rhonda Otto!!*

**Sunday 2/2:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; Cook meat and prep for Chili Supper; *Happy Birthday Sarah Schisel and Jennifer Holz!!*

**February Pantry Items:**

**Box of Sandwich bags, Ziplocs, Foil, Saran Wrap or Garbage bags**