

After this he said to him,
"Follow me."

John 21:19, NRSV



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, May 4, 2025
Third Sunday of Eastertide
Worship Leader: Rev. 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

Sing praises to the Lord! :: Give thanks to his holy name!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

"Holy Ground"

We are standing on holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around

Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in his presence on holy ground

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS and MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Sing praises to the Lord, you faithful;

We will give thanks to God's holy name.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

We will give thanks to God's holy name.

God has turned our mourning into dancing! Let us praise and not be silent!

Lord our God, we will give thanks to your holy name, now and always!

***OPENING PRAYER:**

Lord Jesus, we rejoice in your glorious resurrection, a beacon of hope in a world that needs your love. Grant us the grace to see you present in our daily lives, especially in the simple acts of sharing and caring. Help us to recognize your presence in the breaking of bread and to share the good news of Easter with all we meet. Make us faithful witnesses to your risen life, and may our lives be a reflection of your love and grace. Amen."

MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION

***OPENING HYMN #61**

"O How I Love Jesus"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace,
we acknowledge ways in which
we fall short of your hope and purposes for us.
We confess we find it difficult to forgive others and ourselves.
We carry grudges about things done by others long ago,
and things we have done still haunt us.
Forgive us and give us the grace to forgive others;
amend who we are and set us free to begin again with you and one another
(time of silence)**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Friends in Christ, while it is true we have all fallen short of God's intentions,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God,
Jesus offers forgiveness and new life.
So be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.
Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen!**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571**

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 9: 1-6

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues

in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Psalm 30 – p. 611 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

John 21: 1-19

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.^[a] It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus^[b]), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.^[c] ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

CHILDREN'S TIME

*HYMN #324

"Lord, You have Come to the Lakeshore"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(God's table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.

As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

COMMUNION RESPONSE #534 - Refrain only

"Fill my Cup, Lord"

Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up, Lord.

Come quench this thirsting of my soul;

Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;

Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

#403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

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

Petitions end with: In your great mercy, **Hear our prayers.**

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"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for May supports The Guest House of Milwaukee)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Doxology"

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!
Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death
And given life eternal breath. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, you have given us life and furnished it with much beauty and blessing. In Christ you have given yourself to us. So we offer to you a portion of what we have received to share in the work of your kingdom. Use our energy and ability for your purposes for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. 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 and COMMISSIONING

Leader: Beloved community, do you love God?

Assembly: Yes, you know that we love God.

Leader: Feed God's lambs.

Leader: Beloved community, will you keep loving God?

Assembly: Yes, you know that we will keep loving God.

Leader: Tend God's sheep.

Leader: Beloved community, are you blessed by God's love?

Assembly: The God who knows everything knows that we are blessed by God's love.

Leader: Then go forth from this place to live and love abundantly setting a table for all in the midst of injustice growing relationships of justice, dignity and mutual belovedness sharing what you have so that all may flourish.

Assembly: Thanks be to our risen and rising up God!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Join us at the **Merry Christians brat fry** on Sat. May 17th, at the Piggly Wiggly in Kiel. We will be serving hamburgers, brats and steak sandwiches from 10:00 - 3:00.
- **It's UNDY 500 time again!** During the month of May, we are collecting NEW (in the package) undergarments for the Guest House of Milwaukee (shelter).
 - Men's Underwear - BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY (No "tighty whiteys" please)
 - Men's Undershirts
 - Women's Underwear
 - ***Please buy a variety of sizes in each item***
 - Men's S, M, and L Undershirts
 - Men's S, M, and L Underwear
 - Women's S, M, and L Underwear

Help Us with Church Tech! - Volunteers Needed – All Ages Welcome!

Bethlehem UCC is looking for volunteers—including youth—to help with our growing **technology ministry**. Whether you're tech-savvy or just willing to learn, we would love your help!

Areas Where We Need Support:

- **Sound Room** – Operate audio equipment during worship and events.
- **Live Streaming** – Run our laptop and camera to stream services online.
- **Promethean Board** – Form a committee to discuss a promethean board that functions as a whiteboard, connects to desktop devices and touch-sensitive displays. This can be used to share announcements, scriptures, and engaging visual content during services and other organization functions.

Youth volunteers can count this as **community service** or simply as a gift of your time and talents to your church.

No experience necessary—training will be provided!

Interested or have questions?

Please speak to Rev. Randy or any of the members of the Consistory

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Bethlehem UCC with your time and heart!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall

-Fish Fry - Fri. May 9 – Community UCC, Elkhart Lake – 4p-7p- Dine in or carry out

-Brat Fry – Wed. May 14 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley

-May 3,4,9,10 – Dinner Theater @ Gloria Dei Lutheran in New Holstein – “Murder Me, Murder me Not” \$25/person see flyer



Those Grieving:

Those struggling with health issues:

Linda Smith	
Jill Sheets	Mary Beth Molitor
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Tom Lefeber
Marie Rietbrock	Donna Firman
Dana	Hubert

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

2025 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

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

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

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

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

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 5/4: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00 Communion class; 9:30am Sunday worship with Communion;

Monday 5/5: *Happy Anniversary Grant & Christa Taylor!*

Tuesday 5/6:

Wednesday 5/7: *Happy Birthday Dayna Schultz and Jenna Rumpff!*

Thursday 5/8: *Happy Birthday Nick Hanson and Merri Wempner!*

Friday 5/9: *Happy Birthday Jennifer Brockway and Tim Mueller!*

Saturday 5/10: *Happy Birthday Bryan Jeanty!*

Sunday 5/11: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship; *Happy Birthday Pam Bowe!*

May Pantry Items: Laundry Soap or Fabric Softener

Stay Informed! Sign up to receive Bethlehem's weekly email update, The Bethlehem Blurb. Send your email address to BethUCCKiel@outlook.com and you will be added!