



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

Musician: Kathy Bowe

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

***= 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

Serve the Lord with fear :: happy are those who take refuge in God

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:**

The coming of a new day calls us to anticipate God's dawn.

The day of God's dawning is like a morning star rising.

The light of God is like a devouring fire.

God's brightness is too intense for our gaze.

Come up to the mountain of God's presence.
Wait for God to reveal divine intentions for us.

We are eyewitnesses to God's majesty.

We have sensed God's presence in stories of Jesus.

Look up, and do not be afraid.

Jesus, whom you seek, is transfigured before you.

We will serve our God with fear and trembling.

Happy are those whose refuge is in God.

*OPENING PRAYER:

Amazing God, as leaders of old sought high places of encounter with you, lift us up above the fogs of our own understandings that we might meet you in this hour. If you have instructions for us, we want to hear them. If our lives need a change of direction, turn us around. If there is a prophecy we have ignored, reveal its meaning for us. If the scriptures hold truth we have overlooked, awaken our attention and grant us courage to respond in new and positive ways. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #155

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

God of dazzling splendor, we confess that we have lived in a cloud, hiding from your glory and pretending not to notice the wonders of your majesty. The mystery of life eludes us because we take for granted what seems commonplace and refused to deal with matters beyond our understanding. We have tried to put our religion in a compartment separate from the rest of life. We have not thought to serve you in everyday encounters. Shake our complacency, we pray, and awaken us to new life in all its fullness. Amen.
(time of silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Happy are all who take refuge in God.

We are accepted as God's own children.

To us, the Holy Spirit comes as a gift, interpreting to us the truth of the scriptures. Do not be afraid of the vision God sets before us.

A new day is dawning among us as we become aware that God is with us.

*RESPONSE #82 v1

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Exodus 24:12-18 (CEB)

¹² The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there. I’ll give you the stone tablets with the instructions and the commandments that I’ve written in order to teach them.”

¹³ So Moses and his assistant Joshua got up, and Moses went up God’s mountain. ¹⁴ Moses had said to the elders, “Wait for us here until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur will be here with you. Whoever has a legal dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The Lord’s glorious presence settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from the cloud. ¹⁷ To the Israelites, the Lord’s glorious presence looked like a blazing fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up the mountain. Moses stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Psalm 2 – p. 583 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

Matthew 17:1-9 (CEB)

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain. ² He was transformed in front of them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.

³ Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus. ⁴ Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, “Lord, it’s good that we’re here. If you want, I’ll make three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵ While he was still speaking, look, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son whom I dearly love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!” ⁶ Hearing this, the disciples fell on their faces, filled with awe.

⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Don’t tell anybody about the vision until the Human One is raised from the dead.”

CHILDREN’S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE

“Transfiguration”

Hillsong Worship

SERMON

*HYMN #151
Michael W. Smith

“Open the Eyes of my Heart”

recorded music by

ORDER FOR RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

JOINING BETHLEHEM TODAY IS OWEN INGRAHAM (GRANDSON OF TOM & MARIE MUELLER), AND ABIGAIL REIS

INVITATION

SENTENCES

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

L: Do you believe in God?

P: We believe in God, Father Almighty.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

P: We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, Giver of life.

ADDRESS

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

*WELCOME AND RECEPTION:

One: Let us, the members of Bethlehem United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

PRAYER

CLOSING One: Go in the peace of Christ. **All: Thanks be to God! Amen**

*RESPONSE #494 chorus only "Bind us Together" (Kathy will play through first)

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: God of the human family, **Hear our prayers for your world.**

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 #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.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. February's Jingle Change supports the Sunday School's Leprosy project

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Tune: 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 clouds and devouring fire, we are amazed by the experiences of Moses and the disciples of Jesus. They point us beyond our everyday attempts to be faithful to you. Enrich our lives in the season we are entering, that we may see the lamp of your love shining amid the shadows. Let your new day dawn among us as we invest ourselves in your purposes for humanity. May we sense the morning star rising in our hearts, giving hope to a world reclaiming the values of your reign among us. 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/COMMISSIONING

We have been to the mountaintop with Moses.
We know that God's established order brings life.

God is our refuge and our inspiration.

Prayers empowers our thinking and our doing.

We have caught the vision of the disciples.

We will know life abundant as followers of Jesus.

Christ expands our horizons day by day.

We are amazed at the possibility Christ offers.

Days of waiting and watching bring revelation.

Times of loving service bring fulfillment and joy.

The spirit sends us into the world to serve.

We share the message: We are beloved by God. Amen

POSTLUDE

***liturgies and prayers for this morning were used with permission from:*

Baylor, Lavon. Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A. The Pilgrim Press: Cleveland, OH. 2002.

Bethlehem Announcements:

- Bethlehem family and friends, please join us on **Sunday, February 22nd for a family ice fishing outing on Wilke Lake**. We will gear up and head out for a fun day on the lake after church service on 2/22/26 (10:30 am).

Parking will be at Scott & Jane Umland's residence (thank you!) at:

10411 Glen Flora Rd.

OR

Public Boat Launch

Kiel, WI 53042

Located off of Point Creek Rd.

(By Hennings Cheese)

We will plan on fishing from approximately 11:00 am until 2:00'ish (or however long you want to stay out on the lake). Live bait will be provided (wax worms & minnows).

We will grill hamburgers, brats, & hotdogs on the lake for lunch (beverages will be BYOB).

Remember to bring your warm clothes, fishing gear, DNR fishing license, and good spirits. We hope that mother nature will bless us with a nice winter day, and everyone can have fun on the ice. Everyone is welcome to attend (fishing gear or not, we will provide gear for anyone that does not have any). If you have further questions; please contact Lee Watson (920) 562-0588 (text/call) or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

- The mission trip will take place March 22-28. We will travel to eastern Kentucky to serve God's people who were subject to flooding last year. The cost is \$90 for lodging + travel expenses. Members of several area UCC churches will be going and we'd love YOU to join us! Our final participant list needs to be submitted by March 1. Please commit asap. Contact Pastor Randy with questions. Also, if you wish to support our trip, we welcome donations of Walmart and/or BP gift cards.
- The **annual meeting for the WI conference of the UCC**, will be held April 10 & 11 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake. Bethlehem is allotted two delegates from the membership. It's a time of worship, business meetings, seminars and more. There are funds allocated in the budget to cover your costs. Please contact Pastor Randy if you're interested in attending - even if just for ONE of the days!
- **BUCC Breakfast Club!** - Our first gathering will take place on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Riverview Restaurant at 8:30am. All are welcome! Join us for food and fellowship! Please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship fall by Sunday, Feb. 22 so we can let them know how many are coming.
- **Up Coming Events!!**
 - Wednesday, Feb. 18 – 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Communion
 - Sat, Feb 21 – 2p-4p Youth Olympic watch party @ St. Peter's UCC
 - Sunday, Feb 22 – 11am BUCC Ice fishing on Wilke Lake
 - Saturday, Feb 28 – BUCC Breakfast Club 8:30am @ Riverview
 - Sunday March 1 – Potluck and "Game Day" to follow worship

Community Announcements:

- Feb. 24 – 9a-12pm **Quilters Club** at St. Marks UCC – Orchard Rd. Cleveland. See the flyer for details.
- Feb 25 – 8:30-11:30am **Board Game group** at St. Marks UCC – Orchard Rd. Cleveland. See the flyer for details.
- Friday, Feb 20 – Holy Trinity Parish Perch Fry- (11928 Marken Rd. – School Hill) Dine-in from 3:30-7pm. Carry-outs available 11a-1p and 3:30-7:00pm by calling 920-773-2380. Grilled cheese also available. (See flyer for more details.)

- Sat. April 18 – 9a-1pm – “Stewardship of the Body” – A workshop for women – Zion Lutheran Church, New Holstein – see flyer


 IN OUR
 
Thoughts and Prayers

Those Grieving:

Family of Luella Emily Rogers Mauro (Pastor Roy’s mother)

Those struggling with health issues:

Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Jackie Voland
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Eileen Koppenhaver
Margaret	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)
Heather	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 2/15: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday worship; 1p-3p RCF Sheepshead Tourney at BUCC; 5pm Spirit Articles Due

Monday 2/16: *Happy Birthday Diane Fidlin and Ryan Holz!*

Tuesday 2/17: *Happy Birthday Mark Voland!*

Wednesday 2/18: 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Ashley Radder!*

Thursday 2/19: *Happy Birthday Emilee Wirtz! Happy Anniversary Tony & Pam Bowe!*

Friday 2/20: *Happy Birthday Dawn Muehlbauer and Jesse Rumpff!*

Saturday 2/21: High School Youth Olympic Watch Party 2p-4p St. Peter’s UCC;

Sunday 2/22: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday worship; Ice Fishing on Wilke Lake

Jan/Feb Panty Item: Can of Soup

