

**BETHLEHEM UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Eastertide**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Randall 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

***Deliver me, Lord :: my faithful God***

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**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**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

God is our Rock and our Fortress.

**In God, we find refuge and strength.**

God's house has many dwelling places.

**We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Christ himself has gone to prepare a place for us.  
**For us, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.**  
So let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Steadfast God,**  
you are our refuge in times of trouble  
our shelter when we are afraid, and  
our dwelling place forever.  
In you alone we place our trust for  
you set the way before in Christ Jesus and  
your Spirit gives us courage to follow him.  
And so, we offer you our worship and love  
as the Source of life for the world,  
as the Son who preached the truth of grace and mercy,  
and the Spirit who guides us this day and always. Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN #5

“Praise the Lord, His Glories Show”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Forgiving God, trusting in who you are, knowing who we are and what we have done, we confess to you our sins:

**Steadfast God,**  
we confess Jesus as the way, the truth and the life for us,  
yet we often fail to follow him,  
too often gone our own way,  
distorted the truth and led hollow lives.  
Forgive us for falling short of your purpose for our lives.  
Give us courage to follow Jesus,  
who continues to show us the way.  
(time of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Know that, in Christ, you are forgiven.

**We will accept God’s grace and forgiveness this day, and extend it to others for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup> In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Turn your ear to me,  
come quickly to my rescue;  
be my rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress to save me.**

<sup>3</sup> Since you are my rock and my fortress,  
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,  
for you are my refuge.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are in your hands;  
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,  
from those who pursue me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine on your servant;  
**save me in your unfailing love.**

### **John 14:1-14**

Jesus said, "Don't be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. <sup>2</sup> There are many rooms in my Father's house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going."

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really knew me, you would know my Father too. But now you know the Father. You have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Philip, I have been with you for a long time. So you should know me. Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father too. So why do you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The things I have told you don't come from me. The Father lives in me, and he is doing his own work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done.

<sup>12</sup> "I can assure you that whoever believes in me will do the same things I have done. And they will do even greater things than I have done, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And if you ask for anything in my name, I will do it for you. Then

the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE

"Big House"

Audio Adrenaline

## SERMON

\*HYMN #524 V.1-2

"Let us Break Bread Together"

## 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 #524 V.3

"Let us Break Bread Together"

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...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

**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

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. Jingle Change for May supports The Undy 500, a collection drive of new men's undergarments for the Guest House of Milwaukee men's shelter.)

\*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

**Generous God, we bless you for life renewed through Christ's love and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Use the gifts we offer to bring hope and renewal to the world you love in the name 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/COMMISSIONING

POSTLUDE

*\*\*liturgies and prayers for this morning were used with permission from:  
presbyterian.ca/worship/*

## **Bethlehem Announcements:**

- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation. See items next to the sound room. Couch and chair are in the youth room.
  - Small TV with VHS capability
  - DVD player
  - VHS tapes
  - Large TV stand
  - Also available is a couch and rocking chair
  
- Building and Grounds meeting on Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> in the church library at 6:30pm
  
- Merry Christians Brat Fry Sat., May 9 from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Piggy Wiggly. Featuring steak sandwiches.

**It's UNDY 500 time!!!** Please bring your new undergarments for the Guest House (men's shelter) in Milwaukee. We are collecting throughout the month of May.

***Note: All items must be NEW and in the original packaging***

- Men's Underwear - BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY (No "tighty whiteys" please)
- Men's Undershirts

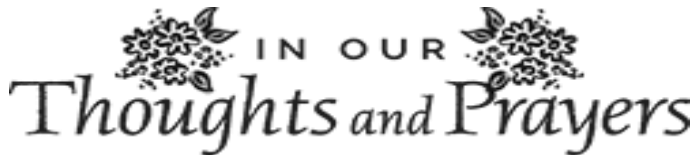
***Please buy a variety of sizes in each item***

- Men's S, M, L, XL, 2X,3x, and 4X Undershirts (**note: Guest House is currently completely out or low on M, L and XL t-shirts**)
- Men's S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X and 4X Underwear (**note: Guest House is currently completely out or low on M, L and XL underwear**)

## **Community Announcements:**

- Due to retirement, Salem UCC in Plymouth has an immediate opening for a shared, part-time secretary position working about 9-11 hours a week. The Church Secretary manages the work of the office, including producing announcements and bulletins, maintaining membership records, working with those leading worship, producing the Chapel Chimes newsletter and managing office communications, etc. Requirements for this position include proven office management or administrative experience, strong organizational, communication and problem solving skills and proficiency in MS Office and social media programs. A complete list of responsibilities and requirements is available by contacting the church office at [churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org](mailto:churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org). Resumes may be emailed to the church office email or sent to Salem UCC, 217 Salem Dr., Plymouth, WI 53073.

- ☐ Sunday, May 3 @ 1pm – Sheepshead Gathering at St. James UCC, Newton
- ☐ Friday, May 8 – Fish Fry – 4p-7pm – Dine in or Carry Out – Community UCC, 174 N. East Street, Elkhart Lake – See flyer
- ☐ Wed. May 13 – 4p-7p – Brat Fry at St. James UCC, Newton
- ☐ Friday, May 15 – 10am-4pm – Brat Fry at Blattner’s Piggly Wiggly for St. John’s UCC, New Holstein
- ☐ Sat. May 30 – Treasures in the Trunk Sale – 9am-2pm @ Salem UCC, Plymouth – Vendor spots still available too! See Flyer!
- ☐ **OUR LADY OF THE HOLYLAND PARISH SOCIAL – AT JOHNSBURG!**  
 Saturday, June 6th, 2026. Outdoor Polka Mass @ 4PM. 5PM-8PM 2/5’s Party Band. Brats, hamburgers, and refreshments available in the beer stand following mass. Raffle drawing held at 8:00PM. Putting Contest, Meat Raffle, Kid’s Games, and Pot of Gold Raffle during event. Hope to see you there! St. John the Baptist Church [N9288 County Road W, Malone].



**Those dealing with health concerns:**

Tyler Meyer	Janet
Judy Brockway	Davin Horneck
Dayton Horneck	Jackie Volland
Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Margaret
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

## **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 5/3:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Sara Jeanty! Happy Anniversary Garrett & Ginny Schultz and Kevin & Mandy Voland!*

**Monday 5/4:** 4pm Loads of Love

**Tuesday 5/5:** 6:30pm Buildings and Grounds Mtg; *Happy Anniversary Grant & Krista Taylor!*

**Wednesday 5/6:** *Happy Birthday Louis Bowe!*

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

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

**Saturday 5/9:** 10a-2 Merry Christians Brat Fry at Kiel Pig; *Happy Birthday Jennifer Brockway and Tim Mueller!*

**Sunday 5/10:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday worship w/ Mission Trip Presentation; *Happy Birthday Bryan Jeanty!*

**May/June Panty Item: Cereal**

