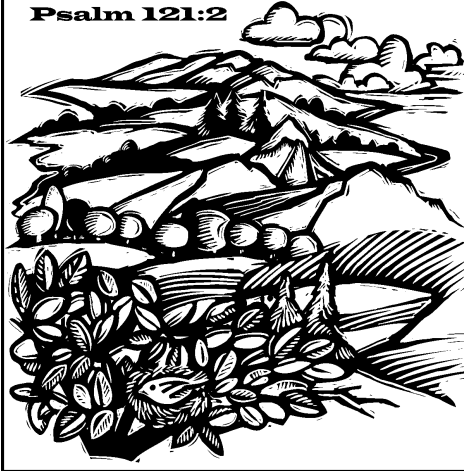


**My help comes  
from the LORD,  
who made  
heaven  
and earth.**

**Psalm 121:2**



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: [BethUCCKiel@outlook.com](mailto:BethUCCKiel@outlook.com)

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at [www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Eastertide**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Darren Beachy**

**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

***I will call upon Thee, Lord :: Give ear to my voice***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

“Holy Ground”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Like spring breaking through winter's power,

**God's resurrecting power breaks into our lives in surprising ways.**

Like the vine that supports blossoms and fruit,

**God's Word upholds the church in strength.**

Let us worship God who makes all things new.

**We will praise God who brings growth and renewal to all life.**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**Holy God, Creator of all things;**

**you are our hope and the source of all wisdom.**

**Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord,**

**you are the vine and we are the branches. Your love is our strength.**

**Your energy is our joy.**

**Holy Spirit, you nourish our faith so that we can bear fruit in many different ways. We gather to offer our worship and praise you as**

**Holy God, Loving Son and Holy Spirit, ever Three and ever One. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #45 (all)      “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: We look for your acceptance and forgiveness, Loving God.

**All: We have been slow to trust, yet quick to criticize.**

**We have been reluctant to give, yet ready to take advantage.**

**We have known the words to say, but have kept them to ourselves.**

**We have been challenged to bring change, but have failed to get started.**

**We have been aware of the opportunity to witness to our faith,  
but have let the moment pass.**

**And we are conscious of those times, O God, when we have denied the  
way of integrity and compassion shown to us by Jesus Christ.**

*Time of silent reflection...*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: God will not leave us without hope. The graceful gift of Jesus is proof positive of that “blessed assurance.”

**All: We are accepted by God.**

One: God will enable us to express our troublesome thoughts and memories.

**All: We are forgiven by God.**

One: God will give us confidence to speak of new things, to work in new ways, and to cooperate with new people.

**All: We are renewed by God.**

One: Pardon and peace are yours!

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571      “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### Job 4:1-11

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered:  
‘If one ventures a word with you, will you be offended?  
But who can keep from speaking?  
See, you have instructed many;  
you have strengthened the weak hands.  
Your words have supported those who were stumbling,  
and you have made firm the feeble knees.  
But now it has come to you, and you are impatient;  
it touches you, and you are dismayed.  
Is not your fear of God your confidence,  
and the integrity of your ways your hope?  
‘Think now, who that was innocent ever perished?  
Or where were the upright cut off?  
As I have seen, those who plough iniquity  
and sow trouble reap the same.  
By the breath of God they perish,  
and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.  
The roar of the lion, the voice of the fierce lion,  
and the teeth of the young lions are broken.  
The strong lion perishes for lack of prey,  
and the whelps of the lioness are scattered.

### Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.  
  
He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not  
slumber.  
He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your  
right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
  
The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for  
evermore.

SERMON

“What if There is No Reason?”

\*HYMN #359 (all)

“Blessed Assurance”

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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: While the season of Easter is unfolding, the gifts of spring emerge around us to remind us of God's generosity in Christ and in creation. As we present our gifts to God, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us and our hope for abundant life in Christ Jesus.

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change goes to One Great Hour of Sharing – There are envelopes in the pews if you wish to make larger contributions.)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Old Hundredth"

**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.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, we bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ's love. Bless the gifts we offer so they renew hope in the world you love, in the name of your greatest gift, 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...POSTLUDE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **The Undy 500 is coming!!**

During the month of May, Bethlehem will be collecting undergarments for The Guest House of Milwaukee, a men's shelter.

- Men's S, M, L, XL, 2XL, and 3XL Undershirts
- Men's S, M, L, and XL Underwear - Boxers and Boxer Briefs only! (no "tighty whitey's")

The basket for donations will be near the church entrance. Jingle Change for the month of May will also support The Guest House.

### **Parsonage Roof**

We need your help! Our parsonage roof is in need of replacement.

You should have received a letter with more details. Our balance in the Maintenance Fund will cover the cost, but will leave us depleted for any other projects this year.

Please consider a donation to the Maintenance Fund toward the parsonage roof.

Thank you!

**\*\*There will be a retirement celebration for Rev. Melinda Feller on Sunday, June 2. Please see the notice on the "community events bulletin board for details.**

### **Do you know what items Bethlehem saves?**

Several Bethlehem organizations save items to enhance their fund raising efforts. These organizations raise money through-out the year to fund their charity giving. There is a poster board set up in the fellowship hall of the things Bethlehem saves. It also tells you where you can place these items. Please consider saving and bringing these items along to church. Thank you!!

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS** -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- Wednesday, May 8 – Brat Fry – 4p-7p St. James UCC- Spring Valley
- Thurs/Friday, May 9 and 10 - Rummage Sale @ Zion Lutheran, New Holstein
- Friday, May 10 – Drive Thru Fish Fry – 4p-7p – Held at Anchor Lanes – Sponsored by Community UCC, Elkhart Lake

### **2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

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

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)



**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

Kelly Suttner

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Art Matzdorf

Nancy Zimmermann

Nancy Henschel

Mason Kannell

Heidi Konen

Brenda Voland

Darlene Horneck

Helen Henning

Tom Lefeber

Jessica Horneck

Jim Markelz

Wanda Matzdorf

Chad Jeanty

Gary Steinhardt

Jaxxen Kane

Marie Rietbrock

Crystal

Renee

Dana

Mary Beth Molitor

Dawson Horneck

Brad Westphalen

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

**Other Concerns:**

Victims of war, conflict or unrest: Haiti, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan

Earthquake victims in Taiwan.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 4/28:** 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Book Study; 9:30am Worship

**Monday 4/29:** ~Happy Birthday Louie Bowe!!

**Tuesday 4/30:**

**Wednesday 5/1:** ~Happy Anniversary Rick & Linda Rabe and Kerry & Sharon Rumpff!

**Thursday 5/2:** ~Happy Birthday Elizabeth Deignan and Barb Henning!

**Friday 5/3:** ~Happy Birthday Sara Jeanty! Happy Anniversary Garret & Ginny Schultz and Kevin & Mandy Voland!

**Saturday 5/4:**

**Sunday 5/5:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; ~Happy Anniversary Grant & Christa Taylor!

**April Pantry Items:**

**Bottle of Hand Soap, Dish Soap or Shampoo**