

"GIVE TO CAESAR  
WHAT IS CAESAR'S,  
AND TO GOD  
WHAT IS GOD'S."  
MATTHEW 22:21, NIV



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, October 22, 2023**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Polly Jeanty**

*If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM*

**\*= Please rise in body or spirit**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #555

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: **God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.**

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of the Lord.

Many: **God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.**

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: **God is worthy to be praised!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Revealing God, you show us the way of life, lead us with love, and move us to compassion. May our hearts be transformed by your Spirit and by your Truth. Let our actions and attitudes demonstrate your kingdom. May justice and peace be our hope. Let repair, restoration, and reconciliation be our**

**aim. Make your presence among us known. Let us prepare to receive it. Amen.**

\*HYMN #7 all

“Praise to the Lord”

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Righteous One, forgive us for all the ways our hearts have been hardened. Forgive us for every time we chose to reflect the ways, attitudes, and values of this world rather than your kingdom. Forgive us for turning away from the brokenness of our world when it becomes too uncomfortable. Forgive us for being timid when you empower us to be bold, for being resigned when you have created us to be resolute, for being complicit when you have charged us to be transformative. Help us to walk in your image and your path of righteousness, courageousness, and loving kindness.**

(silent reflection)

#### WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, remember that you do not walk this journey alone. The Comforter and Advocate accompanies you and equips you for the ministry of abundant love that shows up, speaks up, and acts up in the name of Jesus. Know that your life and your witness make a difference. **God is faithful to forgive and enables us to do the impossible and be the unimaginable. All glory be to him! Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Psalm 96** – p.677 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read even

#### **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

<sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in

Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

#### **Matthew 22:15-22**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

#### **SERMON**

\*HYMN #62 all

“You are My All in All”

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER... LORD’S PRAYER**

Petitions end with: God of goodness, **May we share your love.**

**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.**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING** (Jingle Change for the month of October supports the UCC’s Neighbor’s in Need offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 282

“Give Thanks”

**Give thanks with a grateful heart**

**Give thanks to the Holy One**

**Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ,**

**His Son (2 times)**

And now...  
let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done  
for us" (2 times)

Give thanks... (2 times)

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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.***

**COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

***Pastor Randy and his wife will be on vacation from October 24-28. Please contact Rev. Nicole Herda of St. Peter's UCC-Kiel if you have pastoral care needs. Her phone number is 920-242-8308.***

The Bethlehem Ladies are taking orders for Poinsettias. They are \$9 each and the colors available are red, white and pink. The last Sunday to order Poinsettias is December 3rd. The Poinsettias can be taken home on Christmas Day after worship service. The sign up is on the table in the fellowship hall. Cash or checks to "Bethlehem Ladies" can be given directly to Ginny Schultz or put in her mail box. Thank you!!!

**Food Drive!** Bethlehem is holding a food drive for the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry during the month of October. A list of requested items is located near the drop off box at the front door. Thank you for your support.

**MISSION TRIP w/ St. Peter's UCC**

Sunday October 22 (about 10:10am) those who are interested in participating in the Appalachia Service Project June 15-22 of 2024 must sign up, as well as putting \$50/person going towards the trip as your commitment to attending. This trip is for 9<sup>th</sup> grade through adults. The meeting will be held at St. Peters UCC, Kiel.

**Youth Event!!** Sunday, Oct 29 - 5p-7pm

Fall fun! Campfire...Pumpkin Games... Food..."Ghost in the Graveyard"

Hosted by Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 11608 Lax Chapel Rd, Kiel

**PUMPKINS NEEDED!!!**

**2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)

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

**Community Announcements:**

- Fall Fare – Sat. Nov. 11 – 9a-2p – First Congregational UCC, Plymouth – Craft Sale, Silent Auction – Bake Sale – Soup to Go



**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Joys:**

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

Bob Radder

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Heidi Konen

Brenda Voland

Darlean Rumpff

Helen Henning

Tom Lefeber

Jessica Horneck

Dawson Horneck

Crystal

Marie Rietbrock

Daisy Sippel

Darlene Horneck

Molly

Mary Beth Molitor

Sandra Tesch

Gary Steinhardt

Neal (Louie's Brother)

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

**Other Concerns:**

Those affected by war in Israel.

Those affected by the earthquake in Afghanistan.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 10/22:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship;

**Monday 10/23:**

**Tuesday 10/24:** ~Happy Anniversary Randy & Melissa Koppenhaver!

**Wednesday 10/25:**

**Thursday 10/26:**

**Friday 10/27:** ~Happy Birthday Aliyah Arnold, Tyson Arnold, and Steve Deignan!

**Saturday 10/28:**

**Sunday 10/29:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; 5pm RCF Youth event at Bethlehem; ~Happy Birthday Hudson Hoban! Happy Anniversary Tony & Sandra Tesch!

**October Pantry Items:**

**Cleaning Supplies**