



EPHESIANS 2:8, NRSV

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, March 10, 2024

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Polly Jeanty

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

Be not far from me, O Lord :: For you are my strength and help

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #555

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace"

Polly and Randy

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: God's love is for all of creation.

A: The vastness of God is for human, animal, soil, and sun, all together as God's beloved.

L: God has not come into the world in Jesus to condemn us.

A: Jesus has come to live God's love in the flesh.

L: While the world is dim with injustice and the feeling of loneliness,

A: it is in Jesus that the light of love illumines our path of friendship. Come, let us join our lives with the Friend, whose love is for the whole world. Let us worship God!

*OPENING PRAYER:

O God who is Friend, the vastness of your love flows through all of creation, and this is cause for rejoicing. For all the harshness and condemnation that we see in the world, you have come to us out of love, compassion, and to save us from ourselves. We acknowledge our belief that you have come to redeem, to heal, to restore, and forgive, not just some of the world, but all of the world. May our worship embody the love and light you bring in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #283 all “Now Thank We all our God”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess there are moments when we desire to see you bring condemnation on others or wish that your love was not for the whole world, but just a few. Like us. But, your love is bigger than our limited lenses, broader than our small scope of vision of all that love embodies. Help us to see the world as you do. Help us to love as you do. Release us from our need to condemn and set us free for love. For, it is what you came enfleshed to show us. Amen.

(time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus has come into the world not to condemn it, but to set us free by love. Know the grace of God surrounds you and keeps you in love now and forever.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558 “Gloria Patri”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not

the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

SERMON

*HYMN #190 all

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

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

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change goes to OCWM: Our Church’s Wider Mission)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #438 v.1

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back. Your willingness to say yes to coming in the flesh to redeem our world through love and no to the powers of oppression has led us to give of ourselves generously this day. Take these gifts and multiply them across this world that you love so extravagantly. 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:

- **Choir News:**
Come and join us to sing on Easter Sunday (3/31) and Confirmation Sunday (4/21). We will be practicing on 3/10 and 3/24 after the service.
- Bethlehem's Loads of Love Laundry Ministry has seen an increase in clients and cost in recent months. We are currently aiding TWO clients with medical conditions that result in large amounts of soiled laundry. Your financial support of the program is needed to continue providing this important service in our community. The donation jug is located near the double doors to the sanctuary.
- Summer Camp time is Approaching! Daycholah Center and other UCCI camps are booking for campers and ALSO hiring staff for the summer! (Perfect for college students!) Please let Pastor Randy if you'd like more information about summer camp.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **29:11 International Exchange** is returning to Sheboygan March 6 – March 17. The choir is a music ministry based in South Africa and the United States and is comprised of singers and musicians from cities across South Africa. Their visit will culminate in a concert at The Stephanie Weill Center on Friday, March 15 at 7:00 pm. The concert is free and open to the public. See the bulletin board for more information.
- Do you or someone you know provide care for an elderly parent or other family member? The Manitowoc County Aging and Disability Resource Center is holding “The Powerful Tools for Caregivers” workshop. The workshop will be held on Wednesdays from 9a-

11:30am – beginning March 13 and going to April 17- at the Manitowoc Sr. Center.
Please see the bulletin board for details.

- Saturday, April 6. – Women’s day at Zion Lutheran, New Holstein. Details on the bulletin board.

2024 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

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

Pastor – Randy Kopenhagen (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

William Baldwin (Randy’s uncle)

Those struggling with health issues:

Nancy Zimmermann

Mason Kannell

Sarah Arnold

Heidi Konen

Brenda Voland

Darlene Horneck

Helen Henning

Tom Lefeber

Jessica Horneck

Dawson Horneck

Nancy Henschel

Jaxxen Kane

Tom Brickbauer

Marie Rietbrock

Daisy Sippel

Renee

Dana

Mary Beth Molitor

Crystal

Gary Steinhardt

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by war and violence around the world.

The family and friends of 3 year-old Elijah Vue, Two Rivers.

Where does my OCWM contribution go?

In addition to funding operations at the Conference and Association levels, OCWM funds support CHHSM partners. (Council for Health and Human Service Ministries) There are 10 partners in WI. This week we highlight **Valley View Apartments, Manitowoc – part of RHF.org**

From their website: Our Mission is to provide Affordable Housing and Service Coordination for persons with limited incomes in an inclusive environment that enhances their quality of life physically, mentally, and spiritually. While RHF began with a mission to provide affordable housing for seniors, it has expanded to include affordable housing for low income families and persons with disabilities.

Lenten Schedule:

Wednesday, March 13 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6pm Service Project; 6pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 20 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Mid-week worship

Thursday, March 28 – 6pm Maundy Thursday Seder Meal worship

- We will participate in a simple seder meal as a means of understanding the traditions and practices Jesus would have practiced as he arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover.
- Please note that the meal is part of the worship program and not intended as “dinner.”
- You **MUST** sign up by Mar 17 so we can purchase enough of the required items.

Friday, March 29 – 6pm Good Friday Worship @ St. Peters UCC-Kiel

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 3/10: 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Book Study; 9:30am Worship

Monday 3/11: ~Happy Birthday Steven Voland and Scott Umland!

Tuesday 3/12: 6:30p Consistory Mtg.

Wednesday 3/13: 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6p Confirmation Class; 6p Lenten Service Project

Thursday 3/14: ~Happy Birthday Jennifer Deignan!

Friday 3/15:

Saturday 3/16:

Sunday 3/17: 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Worship

**March Pantry Items:
Box of Pasta, Noodle, Rice or Crackers**