



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, March 17, 2024

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship Leader: Bethlehem Consistory

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

O God of our salvation :: you are the hope of all the ends of the earth

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #555

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: New life rises!

A: That which rises, must first fall and die.

L: Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.

A: The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish.

L: Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.

A: And God will raise us up anew. Amen

***OPENING PRAYER:**

God of grains and grace, we gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires of us that we lay down our desires, our ambitions, and serve you with our

whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. May it be so. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #47 all

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength. But, our true self can let go and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways and transform us and raise us to new life. Amen.

(time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, Jesus reminds us that those who serve him will have the assurance of his presence with them. Trust that we are forgiven, that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with us. **Thanks be to God, Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558

“Gloria Patri”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 51

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ **You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it

again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

MESSAGE

Steven Voland

*HYMN #541 all

"Here I am, Lord"

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

O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so. 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:

PIZZA PARTY with ICE CREAM SUNDAES

Sunday, April 14 following worship service

Everyone is invited

See the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Sponsored by Merry Christians

- 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. Or go to ucci.org

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, March 16 – 9a-2p – Brat Fry at Miesfeld's, Sheboygan – Support youth mission trip of St. Mark's, St. James, and Immanuel UCCs.
- Saturday, April 6. – Women's day at Zion Lutheran, New Holstein. Details on the bulletin board.

2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

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

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

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

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

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Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

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

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



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

William Baldwin (Randy's uncle)
Ronnie Hickman
Dale Christel

Those struggling with health issues:

Nancy Zimmermann	Nancy Henschel
Mason Kannell	Jaxxen Kane
Sarah Arnold	Tom Brickbauer
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Daisy Sippel
Darlene Horneck	Renee
Helen Henning	Dana
Tom Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Crystal
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by war and violence around the world: Ukraine, Gaza, Haiti, Sudan, Myanmar
The family and friends of 3 year-old Ellijah Vue, Two Rivers.

Lenten Schedule:

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

Sunday, March 24 – 9:30a Palm Sunday 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

Sunday, March 31 – 9:30a Easter Worship with Communion

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 **Roundhouse Manor in Kaukauna – part of RHF.org**

From their website: Round House Manor is an affordable housing community for residents 62 and over with several apartments designed to accommodate those who are 18 and over with a mobility impairment.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 3/17: 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Worship;
Spirit News Due at 5pm

Monday 3/18: ~Happy Birthday Tina Salm!

Tuesday 3/19:

Wednesday 3/20: 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Midweek worship service; ~Happy Birthday Ross Westphalen!

Thursday 3/21: ~Happy Birthday Kathy Bowe and Tom Mueller!

Friday 3/22: ~Happy Birthday Riley Radder!

Saturday 3/23: ~Happy Birthday Randy Koppenhaver!

Sunday 3/24: 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Palm Sunday Worship

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