



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, November 10, 2024

25th Sunday After Pentecost

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 merciful to me, O God :: for in you my soul takes refuge

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #557 v. 1 "I Just Came to Praise the Lord"
I just came to praise the Lord, I just came to praise the Lo—rd
I just came to praise his Ho--ly Name, I just came to praise the Lord

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 146)**

One: From generation to generation, the Holy One has loved justice and righteousness, lifted the broken and bowed, and opened possibilities for the dejected.

**Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever.
Trust the Holy One!**

One: When the power brokers, corrupt systems, and tools of violence have failed us, the Holy One has remained faithful to abiding love and abundant liberation.

**Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever.
Follow the Holy One!**

One: Praise the Holy One with song and dance, in spirit and in truth, for God's glory and for life abundantly!

**Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever.
Praise the Holy One!**

*OPENING PRAYER

Living God, we offer you praise in your presence. We give you thanks for life in this community. Some come seeking. Others come assured. Some have questions. Others simply want company. Whatever our reasons for gathering, may they all lead us to an encounter with you, your grace, and your way. Infuse us with your power, forged in love, so that we might be encouraged and respond as agents of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #485 vs. 1-3 "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

PRAYER OF NEW LIFE AND TRANSFORMATION

God of mercy and possibilities, forgive us for clinging to the measures of success and security in our world rather than trusting in the abundance of your creation. Help us to recognize the kingdom coming and our role as participants in your realm. Liberate us from the bonds of consumerism, scarcity, and self-centeredness, and make us vessels of your love come alive in the world. (moment of silent reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved, we are inheritors of the kingdom of God.

We receive riches beyond compare.

The Holy One journeys with us and enables us to grow in grace, peace, and contentment.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen!

**Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe;
Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ‘Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.’ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.’ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’ But she said, ‘As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.’ Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Psalm 146 – (p. 729 of hymnal)

Mark 12:38-44

As he taught, he said, ‘Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.’

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their

abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

CHILDREN'S TIME

MOMENT OF PRAISE "I Speak Jesus"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXbRa5Nm6mM>

SERMON

*HYMN #325 vs. 1, 3-4 "Just as I am, Without One Plea"

PASTORAL PRAYER... 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.

SUNG 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.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle Change for the month of November supports the Sunday School's Holiday Drive)

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "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**

God of generosity and giver of gifts, receive our offerings as a reflection of our gratitude and trust in your sovereignty. Like the widow and Elijah, may the jars that sustain us never empty and never fail. May we witness the miracle of your provision through our generosity and for your glory. 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

****This morning's prayers and liturgies are from: ucc.org and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Heifer International fund raising -Wow!! We've already contributed enough for one heifer. Last year we had enough for six heifers. Deadline is December 8. Checks can be made payable to Bethlehem Merry Christians.
- I thank God for being with me in surgery. I am thankful for the visits from Pastor Randy and the spiritual support encouraging me to keep looking to tomorrow for new opportunities. I am thankful for all the prayers, flowers, cards and calls. I thank God that he sent me a mentor who has been through this surgery herself and was able to explain what the first six months

would be like and helped me to prepare for the second surgery and the next six months to recover. – Nancy Zimmermann

☐ **Bethlehem Ladies Annual Poinsettia Sale:**

Place order on the signup sheet by Sunday, December 1st.

Colors available Red and White

Single are \$14.00

Doubles are \$22.50

Flowers can be taken home on Christmas Day.

☐ **Join us for Brunch!** The Bethlehem Confirmation Class will be hosting and serving brunch following worship on Sunday, Dec. 1. There will be a free-will donation. The proceeds will be used to reduce each family's cost for the Confirmation retreat at Daycholah. (Current cost is \$105/person) To aid in planning, would you please "make a reservation" on the list in the fellowship hall?

☐ Don't miss worship NEXT Sunday, when we welcome back the barbershop group HHT for special music!

☐ There will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Gloria Dei Lutheran at 6pm. Pie and fellowship afterward. Due to out of state travel, Pastor Randy will not be participating. If YOU would like to participate (reading scripture, etc.), please let Pastor Randy know asap.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

☐ **100th Anniversary Celebration Concert** – Grace UCC – Kohler – Sunday, November 10 at 1pm. Refreshments following. See Flyer.

☐ The Kiel Area Historical Society and the LumberYard Brewery present on Tuesday, Nov 12 at 6:30pm: **A History of 703 Fremont Street - The Hotel de Matthews, AA Laun and the LumberYard Brewery.** The presentation and tours are free. Beer can be purchased.

☐ **Manitowoc County Foster Care Info Session** – Nov. 14 – 12p-1p - see flyer

☐ **Spaghetti Drive Thru Fundraiser** – Nov. 16 from 11a-1pm – St. Peters UCC, Kiel Benefitting the Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip

☐ **Cookie Walk** – Sat. Dec 7 – 9a-11a – St. Peters UCC, Kiel



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Those Grieving:

Those struggling with health issues:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Darlean Rumpff | Gary Rabe |
| Will Mathes | Louie Bowe |
| Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets | Nancy Zimmermann |
| Brad Westphalen | Randy's cousin Kurt |
| Jessica Horneck | Jim Markelz |
| Gary Steinhardt | Marie Rietbrock |
| Shari | Tom Lefeber |
| Heidi Konen | Mary Beth Molitor |
| Dawson Horneck | Darlene Horneck |

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Nimmer Helen Henning

2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com
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Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com
Pastor - Randy Kopenhagen (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 11/10: 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:30a WISE; 9:30am Worship
Monday 11/11: Thank you, Veterans!! *Happy Anniversary Arlyn and Donna T-R!*
Tuesday 11/12:
Wednesday 11/13:
Thursday 11/14:
Friday 11/15: *Happy Birthday Julie Mueller!*
Saturday 11/16:
Sunday 11/17: 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:00 Confirmation class; 8:30 Ladies; 9:00 parent/mentor mtg; 9:30am Worship with HHT – Coffee Hour; *Happy Birthday Darlean Rumpff!*

**November Pantry Items:
Box of Cake - Frosting**

I Speak Jesus

I just wanna speak the name of Jesus
Over every heart and every mind
'Cause I know there is peace within Your
presence
I speak Jesus
I just wanna speak the name of Jesus
'Til every dark addiction starts to break
Declaring there is hope and there is
freedom
I speak Jesus
'Cause Your name is power
Your name is healing
Your name is life
Break every stronghold
Shine through the shadows
Burn like a fire
I just wanna speak the name of Jesus
Over fear and all anxiety
To every soul held captive by depression
I speak Jesus
'Cause Your name is power
Your name is healing
Your name is life
Break every stronghold
Shine through the shadows
Burn like a fire
Shout Jesus from the mountains
Jesus in the streets
Jesus in the darkness, over every enemy
Jesus for my family
I speak the holy name
Jesus, oh (oh)
Shout Jesus from the mountains
And Jesus in the streets (oh)
Jesus in the darkness, over every enemy

Jesus for my family
I speak the holy name
Jesus (Jesus)
'Cause Your name is power
Your name is healing
Your name is life
Break every stronghold
Shine through the shadows
Burn like a fire
Your name is power (Your name is
power)
Your name is healing (Your name is
healing)
Your name is life (You are my life)
Break every stronghold (break every
stronghold)
Shine through the shadows
Burn like a fire
I just wanna speak the name of Jesus
Over every heart and every mind
'Cause I know there is peace within Your
presence
I speak Jesus
Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com)
Songwriters: Jesse Reeves / Dustin Smith
/ Abby Benton / Carlene Prince / Raina
Pratt
I Speak Jesus lyrics © Integrity's Praise!
Music, All Essential Music, For Me And
My House Songs

Music video by Passion performing I
Speak Jesus (Live From Camp, Daytona
Beach, FL/2022).
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