



**BETHLEHEM UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, November 17, 2024**

**25th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**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

***Restore me, O God :: let your face shine, that I may be saved***

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 1 Samuel 2:1-10)

The God of wisdom calls us to worship;

**In humility, we gather to offer our thanks and praise.**

The God of peace calls us to let go of our cares and worries;

**In faith, we turn to God for hope and guidance.**

The God of past, present and future welcomes us into this moment;  
**In joy, we celebrate life in God's presence!**

Let us worship God together.

**Hallelujah! Let us praise the Lord!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Lord of goodness and life, we in wonder and awe, are eager to praise your name. You are the source of all that is good and true, the essence of your love. You bring gifts of peace and healing into troubled lives. You show us the way to love friend and enemy alike, and how to build a better world together. In this time of worship, inspire us to believe our work in Jesus' name makes a difference. So may we live to bring you glory, O God, for the sake of Christ our Lord, now and always. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Beautiful Savior"

PRAYER OF NEW LIFE AND TRANSFORMATION

**Redeemer and Liberator, we call upon your power to make all things new. We confess that we have compromised your good news and settled for a comfortable gospel rather than embrace the radical love, hospitality, and inclusion of your kingdom. We have been satisfied with a faith that conforms to the world rather than one that challenges the systems and ways of the world. Forgive us for our focus on our own survival and pleasure while your creation perishes all around us. For your mercy and in repentance, we pray. Amen. (moment of silent reflection)**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved, we bear the image of God.

**We receive power from the Spirit of God.** Be encouraged that Holy Love meets us with boldness and renewal.

**Let God be glorified as we accept the call to be the activating agents of a new world where love reigns, hope endures, and peace abounds.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #358

"Only Believe"

**Only believe, only believe;**

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

**Only believe, only believe;**

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

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **1 Samuel 2:1-10**

Hannah prayed and said,  
'My heart exults in the Lord;  
my strength is exalted in my God.

My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in my victory.

**2 'There is no Holy One like the Lord,  
no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.**

**3** Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.

**4 The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble gird on strength.**

**5** Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,  
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

**6 The Lord kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.**

**7** The Lord makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low, he also exalts.

**8 He raises up the poor from the dust;  
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honor.**

**For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,  
and on them he has set the world.**

**9** 'He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;  
for not by might does one prevail.

**10 The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered;  
the Most High will thunder in heaven.**

**The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;  
he will give strength to his king,  
and exalt the power of his anointed.'**

## Hebrews 10:11-25

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them

after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds',

he also adds,

'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

\*HYMN: #417 vs. 1,3,5

"Kind and Merciful God"

## SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: "It is Well with My Soul"

## PASTORAL PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Lord's Prayer"

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

**Gracious God, we bring our gifts to you with grateful hearts, aware of all we enjoy in Christ and in creation. Bless these gifts and the service we offer in Jesus’ name, so that others may share in your goodness and know of the love we witness in Christ, our friend and Savior. 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

CLOSING SPECIAL MUSIC:

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

\*\*This morning’s prayers and liturgies are from: [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Please turn in any Ricks Piggly Wiggly receipts by next Sunday, November 24th. This refund program will be discontinued, so we need to get them processed quickly.
- Heifer International fund raising – This week we added a pig, a sheep and a goat. See the display in the Fellowship Hall. Each \$10 donation is an opportunity for the drawing of the “Wisconsin” goodie basket. The deadline is December 8. Checks can be made payable to Bethlehem Merry Christians.
- The Sunday School will be collecting **CHILDREN’S hats and mittens** (any size) to be donated to a location. Watch for the box in the entrance area with more information.
- Thanks to those who gave so generously to the Immanuel Food Pantry request for Thanksgiving Dinner items. Donations included 114 items plus \$181 cash and gift cards. The Merry Christians went shopping to purchase the rest of the items needed to fill 35 holiday meal bags.
- **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?
- 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

- **2024 Holiday Extravaganza Craft Show**
  - Sat. Nov. 30th 9:00-2:00 at the Kiel High School
  - \$1.00 Admission (going to Kiel Area Food Pantry)
  - Come and have a photo taken with Santa from 10:00 – 11:30. Hope to see you there!

- **Cookie Walk** – Sat. Dec 7 – 9a-11a – St. Peters UCC, Kiel
  
- **Holiday Concert/Bake Sale Event on behalf of Local Warming Shelter**  
 A combined Holiday Concert and all-county Bake Sale, entitled, “Baby, It’s Cold Outside”, will take place at First Presbyterian Church, Manitowoc, WI, on **Saturday, December 14 from 2pm to 4pm.** All proceeds from the event will benefit the Manitowoc Warming Shelter, which provides safe overnight lodging for unsheltered persons during the coldest nights of the year. Featured artists include The Faith Family Choir from Valders, The Park Street String-Along Band, and young concert organ prodigy Rowen Erickson. In addition to the sale of holiday baked goods, there will be arts and crafts for sale and local merchant-donated gift baskets for raffle. Santa Claus is also scheduled to appear. Churches who are willing to organize and donate baked goods and/or gift baskets to raffle are greatly appreciated, but all are invited to come and support this vital service in our community. For more information, please contact Sheryle Lyman at 352-615-0400.



***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 Ninmer	Helen Henning
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## **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)

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 11/17:** 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:00 Confirmation class;; 9:00 parent/mentor mtg; 9:30am Worship with HHT – Coffee Hour; *Happy Birthday Darlean Rumpff!*

**Monday 11/18:** *Happy Anniversary Pat & Bonnie Hoban!*

**Tuesday 11/19:**

**Wednesday 11/20:**

**Thursday 11/21:** 9am – BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry; *Happy Birthday Heidi Konen!*

**Friday 11/22:** *Happy Birthday Keith Bowe, Bruce Jeanty, & Asher Rodriguez!*

**Saturday 11/23:** *Happy Birthday Ellie Holz!*

**Sunday 11/24:** 8:00 am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; *Happy Anniversary Tom & Traci Rabe!*

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