



**Blessed
are the
poor,
for yours
is the
Kingdom
of
God.**

Luke 6:20
NRSV

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Leader: Steven Voland

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

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord :: they are like trees planted near water

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #555

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come before you, our source and our sustainer.

All: Praise be to you, O God. You hold us and the world in your hands.

One: We worship you, our hope throughout the years and generations.

All: Praise be to you, O God. You are eternally to be trusted.

One: We adore you, O God. Your Way is revealed by the prophets and made clear in Jesus.

All: Praise be to you, O God. Your justice never fails, your compassion goes beyond our understanding.

*OPENING PRAYER

One: O God, great Creator,

All: Show us how to thank you for the sustaining power of your creation.

One: O God, great Teacher,

All: Give us the insight and grace to respond to your challenging Word.

One: O God, compassionate One,

All: Enable us to sense your caring presence in the testing times and to feel secure.

One: O God, eternal Hope,

All: Grant us the wisdom to believe that your love is for us in life, and beyond life. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #388 vs. 1,3,4,6 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: In the struggles of everyday living, you are with us, O God.

In the support of family members,

All: You give us patience.

One: In the hard places of decision making,

All: You give us the will to weigh up alternatives carefully.

One: When conflicts come between friends or at work,

All: You give us the desire to reconcile, and the will to make a fresh start.

One: In the times of ill health or personal setback,

All: You give us the courage to endure, and the strength to go forward hopefully.

One: When we have suffered loss,

All: You give us a clear vision, a vision of life which will be good once more.

(Time of reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

One: When our confidence falters, you are there, O God!

All: You will not let us give up, or stay disheartened, or be walked over, or put down.

One: You affirm our worth in your sight, and stand by us, as you stood by Jesus.

**All: And we rejoice in a new sense of self-esteem!
Thanks be to you, O God! Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #82 v. 1 "O Come let us Adore Him"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalm 1 – p. 582 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,

for you will be filled.
'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you,
and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for
joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to
the prophets.
'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.
'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.
'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the
false prophets.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #19

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER: #403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

PASTORAL PRAYER... 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.**

POST PRAYER RESPONSE #403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

CALL TO THE OFFERING – Your Jingle Change supports the Sunday School's
Leprosy collection for the month of February.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE To tune of the Doxology

**Oh God, may we who bear your name,
By gentle love your grace proclaim.
Christ's gift of peace on earth declare,
And your anointing Spirit share. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: These gifts will root us in the faith community, O God.

All: **They enthuse us to bring change in the name of Jesus Christ;
they inspire us to share the compassionate Christian spirit;
they send us out to work faithfully for Christ;
they remind us that we are responsible for sustaining many beyond our
fellowship;
Bless them, O God. 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/COMMISSIONING

One: You assure us that no adversary, no adversity,
will defeat us, O God.

All: **You inspire us to live our dreams.**

One: You have given the life and the cross-death
of Jesus Christ to free us.

All: **You send us out to prove our discipleship.**

One: In our faithfulness, you bless us!

All: **As we serve, you work with us.**

POSTLUDE

**This morning's prayers and liturgies are used with permission from:
Sparks, David. Prayers to Share: Year C. Woodlake Books: Kelwona, British Columbia, 2003

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sunday, Feb 23 – Bethlehem hits the ice for ICE FISHING!! Immediately following worship, we will head to Scott and Jane Umland’s on Wilke Lake (10411 Glen Flora Rd. Kiel, WI 53042) and fish until about 2pm. Bring warm clothes, fishing gear and DNR license, along with your own beverages. We will grill brats, burgers, and hot dogs on the lake. Bait will be provided. If you don’t have ice fishing gear, there will be some available for use. Additional information can be found in the Spirit Newsletter or by contacting Lee Watson.
- Lenten Devotions!! Kate Bowler: *The Hardest Part: Hurt we carry, Hope we find*
Meeting at 5:30pm in the Lounge -Wednesday, March 5, 12, 26, April 2 and Tuesday, April 8
If interested in attending, please sign up on the table in the fellowship hall. You can also sign up to receive Kate Bowler’s entire collection of Lenten Devotions by email.
- Thank you for supporting our Loads of Love ministry. In Jan we served 2 clients and expended \$76.50. In Feb. we served 4 clients and expended \$89.50. Our donations for January were \$17.50.
- Stay informed!!! Did you know that Bethlehem sends out a weekly email update called The Bethlehem Blurb? If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please send a message to randynmel5@gmail.com or BethUCCKiel@outlook.com.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 24th Annual Holy Trinity Parish Perch Fry – Friday, Feb 21, 2025 – School Hill – Dine in serving from 3:30-7pm, Carry-outs from 11a-1p and 3:30p-7p – call 773-2380 to order carryout. Grilled cheese plates, tortes, and raffle tickets also available.
- Saturday, March 8 – InCourage Annual Domestic Chef Charity event – 4pm – 10pm - See flyer for details
- March 14 and 15 – Volunteer for “Feed my Starving Children” MobilePak event – First United Lutheran Church of Sheboygan. To register, see informational flyers on the mission bulletin board.



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Those Grieving:

Wayne Stauss

Those struggling with health issues:

Diane Fidlin

Will Mathes

Darlene Horneck

Brad Westphalen

Jessica Horneck

Marie Rietbrock

Mary Beth Molitor

Heidi Konen

Emily (Melissa's cousin)

Dawson Horneck

Tom Lefeber

Molly

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer

Helen Henning

2025 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

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

Deacon/Secretary - Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

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

MERRY CHRISTIANS' PIZZA PARTY

Who's Invited: All Family and Friends of Bethlehem

When: Sunday, March 9th following worship

What: Pizza with a variety of toppings, Veggie Pizza,

Fruit Pizza, and Ice Cream Sundaes

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall

AS THE FATHER HAS
LOVED ME,
SO HAVE I LOVED YOU.
NOW REMAIN IN
MY LOVE.

John 15:9, NIV

COLOR THE BOOKMARK
& THEN CUT IT OUT.

JESUS
LOVES
ME

THINGS I LOVE...

SPY...

Find & color the below images on the page

How many can you find on the page?
a. 12 b. 14 c. 9

REJOICE
HEART
LOVE
FOLLOWS
ANGEL
HOPE
GENTLE
JESUS
KIND
JOY

H Z F N C O Q N A Y
E P R O Z J Q E B I
A R T E J C J L V L I H
T Y S G O O L I W D O P
A B U S O J E N T T V L E S
J Q R G E F F S L E A
T W U X H L L N A E A

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This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 2/16: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30 Ladies mtg; 9:30am Worship 1:00pm RCF Sheepshead Tourney; ****SPIRIT NEWS DUE**** *Happy Birthday Diane Fidlin and Ryan Holz!*

Monday 2/17: *Happy Birthday Mark Volland!!*

Tuesday 2/18: *Happy Birthday Ashley Radder!*

Wednesday 2/19: *Happy Birthday Emilee Wirtz!! Happy Anniversary Tony and Pam Bowe!*

Thursday 2/20: *Happy Birthday Dawn Muehlbauer and Jesse Rumpff!*

Friday 2/21:

Saturday 2/22: *Happy Birthday Trenton Rabe!*

Sunday 2/23: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00 Confirmation class; 9:30am Worship: Ice fishing event following worship.

February Pantry Items:

Box of Sandwich bags, Ziplocs, Foil, Saran Wrap or Garbage bags