



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, March 2, 2025

Transfiguration Sunday

Worship Leader: Rev. 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

I praise your great and awesome Name :: Holy are You!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #555

“Sanctuary”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The call of the Holy One has brought us together.

P: We have been called to pray and to praise.

L: We are called to worship and to holy wonder.

P: May the light of Love burn brightly in us.

L: May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.

P: May it become a beacon of hope for others.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your living Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #155**

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Holy God, it has been easy to live with our eyes veiled. Too often, we have hidden from the hard realities within us and around us. We have shielded Your light of Love, instead of sharing it. Something deep within has often hardened our hearts, leading to inaction and apathy. But there is a deeper longing within. We hunger for the forgiveness and renewal You revealed in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Holy One, and unveil our eyes and our hearts. With Your shining love, light a path of forgiveness for us that we may share it with others. By this, we may know the freedom of new life you revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen and amen. (Time of reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

Hear the good news! Do not lose heart! God is merciful.

Bit by bit, we are being transformed into the image of God’s glory made known in Jesus Christ. In our turning, God has forgiven us and unveiled our lives. God has also called us to listen to Jesus Christ, the Beloved, who calls us by the same name.

Beloved, may the forgiving light of God’s love shine through us, and bear the hope of a new beginning to others.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 34:29-35 - The Shining Face of Moses

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to

come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Psalm 99 – p. 680 of hymnal – Leader -odd verses, people- even, All v.9

Luke 9:28-43a - The Transfiguration

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, ‘Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.’ Jesus answered, ‘You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.’ While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #154

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

(God’s table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

COMMUNION RESPONSE #534 - Refrain only

“Fill my Cup, Lord”

**Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up, Lord.
Come quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!**

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

PASTORAL PRAYER... THE LORD’S PRAYER

Each petition ends with: God, in your mercy, **Hear our 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 – Jingle Change for March helps offset Bethlehem’s pledge to OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission)

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

O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that Your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. 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

POSTLUDE

**This morning’s prayers and liturgies are used with permission from:
ucc.org/worshipways

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Today following worship, the mission committee will prepare sandwiches for the Sheboygan Warming Shelter. Please join us if you're interested in helping.

- **THANK YOU!** No matter how many times I say it, it will never be enough. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the support of the Bethlehem community throughout my discernment journey up to my ordination! It is my pleasure to serve this church and look forward to our future together. Thank for the gift of my clergy robe. Thank you to the choir, youth fellowship, Sunday School, Bethlehem Ladies, Merry Christians and mission Group for the fun "pastor" gifts. This is a great place to be! - Pastor Randy
- 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.
- Summer is coming and some of my favorite memories are the times I spent at church camp, both as a camper and camp counselor. Daycholah Center is a UCC camp on Green Lake that offers many fun activities for people of all ages. There are outdoor adventure camps, Sailing Camp, MADD (Music, Art, Dance, Drama), "Con" Camp (Think Harry Potter, Comics, Star Wars, etc), and "Night Owl" Camp, (designed for teens who like to stay up late and sleep in!) I urge you to check out ucci.com for more information. Scholarships and financial assistance are available. It's a lot of fun! – Pastor Randy
- Thank you for supporting our Loads of Love ministry. In Feb. we served 4 clients and expended \$89.50. Our donations for February were \$85.
- 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:

- March 2 - 11a-1pm Chili Dinner @ St James UCC - see flyer for details.
- 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.
- Friday, March 14 – St. Nazianz First Responders Fish Boil – 3p-7pm



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

Dana

Hubert

Tony Bowe

Heidi Konen

Emily (Melissa's cousin)

Dawson Horneck

Tom Lefeber

Molly

Mary Beth Molitor

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Nimmer

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

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

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

From our Confirmation Students:

Thank you to all the people that supported the confirmation class on their trip to Daycholah I learned about a labyrinth. It is like a maze but it is not a maze. My favorite part of the trip was the snowball fight we had. The boys won. We also had flash cards that said "help, thanks, and wow." – Ethan

Starting off I want to give a personal thank you to everyone at Bethlehem who helped pay for our retreat at Daycholah. We did and learned a lot of things there. We made our own versions of the lord prayers, sang prayers together and had praying lessons and sessions. One of the things that stood out to me the most was we walked the labyrinth, the labyrinth is a maze

looking circle, in the labyrinth there is no wrong way you walk it till the end then back. While you are walking the labyrinth, you can think to yourself about anything or you can pray to yourself. It was a cool experience to be able to have time to yourself and think or pray. Another reason it was cool was because of the lesson behind it. It proves that no matter what happens if you go on the other path in life it leads to good things . One of my favorite things at camp was just to be able to have fun while learning and being around new people. One of the activities we did was we had a game time where we could go and talk to other people in the other churches and play games with them. I want to thank you all one last time for helping pay for this trip!! – Kylie

Thank you all for giving me the great opportunity to go to Daycholah. It was a great experience I will never forget. Some things I got to do was learn more about praying. We got to see a labyrinth and learn more about that. We also played many games like a snowball fight, hide and seek, and tag. But my favorite thing was learning about the three words “thanks, help, and wow.” They were very interesting and cool to learn about. So thank you all for helping me to go to Daycholah. - Blake

Thank you all so much for helping our confirmation class go to the Daycholah Center. It would not have been possible without all of you. We all had so much fun while there and learned so much. Some things we learned about were Labyrinths, and what each part of a prayer means, and we also made our own prayer. My favorite part about going to Daycholah was meeting all the new people. I made new friends and created great memories to look at in the future. – Courtney

The Mission Trip is two weeks away (March 16-22). Attending the trip will be Pastor Randy, Melissa Koppenhaver, and Marie Mueller. They will be helping tornado and flood victims in western Kentucky. Thank you for supporting the mission fund with your January Jingle change. The mission committee contributed funds to offset the registration fees. People still wishing to contribute can donate cash or gift cards to help with travel expenses. They will be purchasing groceries and other items while on location. Walmart or prepaid VISA/MC will be the most useful. You can give them to Pastor Randy prior to March 15.

MERRY CHRISTIANS' PIZZA PARTY – NEXT WEEK!!

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 3/2: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30 WISE; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion: 6pm Rural Church Fellowship @ Immanuel UCC

Monday 3/3: 4pm Loads of Love

Tuesday 3/4:

Wednesday 3/5: 5:30pm Lenten Devotions; 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship; *Happy Anniversary Jeff & Jennifer Holz!*

Thursday 3/6: *Happy Birthday Mason Wempner!!*

Friday 3/7: *Happy Birthday Dylan Jeanty!*

Saturday 3/8: ****SPRING FORWARD @ BED TIME!****

Sunday 3/9: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00 Confirmation Class; 9:30am Worship followed by Pizza Party

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