



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Sunday, March 9, 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader: Rev. 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

My refuge and my fortress :: My God in whom I trust

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #556

“Surely the Presence...”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather to remember and share stories of faith; rejoice in the goodness of the loving God.

Before our stories began, there was God; through all our days, God walks with us.

Worship the one who gives and sustains life; singing praises to the one who is our refuge.

There is no place we can go where God is not; amid life's terrors, God's promises hold true.

Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy; dance with the God, who frees us for new possibilities.

We call out to God, expecting to be heard; we listen, knowing there is truth to be received.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of history, whose Word is alive in us, write your truth into our lives this day. Work your signs and wonders in our midst. Show us your salvation. Be present in our troubles and in our triumphs. Lead us away from bondage to things that do not matter. Show us the better land you intend for us, where barriers no longer divide and true community is born. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #173

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Come, all who have inflicted or accepted oppression; we share in the world's sin. Come, all who make distinctions among people; we participate in the brokenness of God's family. Come, all who respond to the false voices of the world; God is calling us away from our former limitations.

Sovereign God, we confess our desire to reshape our world to our own advantage. We are more concerned with what we eat than with who will get to eat today. Our own security is more important to us than the health and safety of all your children. The first fruits of our labor grace the altars of our own desires instead of honoring you. We prefer that you keep your distance from us unless we need you. We like promises without commands, gifts without responsibilities. O God, we confess that our ways don't work. Turn us around for true worship and service, as forgiven and forgiving people. Amen. (Time of reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

All who call on God will know salvation. Those who cling to God will be delivered.

How great is the joy of people who are loved, forgiven, and set free to become a new creation, through Jesus Christ. God's gifts are for us.

Let us receive them in trust, knowing that God's presence and protection are ours to enjoy every day.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #564 refrain

“All Will be Well”

COMMISSION ADULT MISSION TEAM TO KENTUCKY

(**Marie Mueller, Melissa Koppenhaver Randy Koppenhaver**, Fitz Fitzpatrick, Nancy Petzold, Allan Utecht, Kelly Haefs, Carol Knoener, Karl Knoener, Fay Henning)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 - First Fruits and Tithes

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

- ¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
² **will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'**
⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
¹⁰ **no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.**

- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
- ¹² **On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**
- ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
- ¹⁴ **Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.**
- ¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
- ¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

Luke 4:1-13 - The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you", and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE

"Lord I Need You"

Matt Maher

<https://youtu.be/LuvfMDhTyMA?si=AlyYawm1JC7aV3qf>

SERMON

*HYMN #418

“Take Time to be Holy”

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 #438 v1

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

From the abundance entrusted to us, we offer up the best we can give. Guide our use of this precious trust, that it may be spent in ways you choose, in places where you would send us, for the sake of people among whom you wish to dwell. May we bear witness to your abiding love, not only with money but with dedicated lives. Allow us to be instruments of assurance and compassion in our homes and wherever our journeys lead. 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

Depart to the places of your inheritance; God will dwell with you there and bless you.

All that we have is a gift from God; everywhere we go, we are with our Creator.

Walk in the ways of God, rejoicing in God's goodness; the Most High will honor your calls and protect you.

We call on God's name as we scatter once more; our prayers will continue in every day and place.

Know that Christ Jesus was raised from death for you. Continue in faith, sharing the good news.

We rejoice in our salvation and claim our healing period we offer renewal and hope to the world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

**This morning's prayers and liturgies are used with permission from:

Baylor, Lavon. Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C. The Pilgrim Press- Cleveland, OH. 2001

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Bethlehem Ladies – Easter Flowers!** We will be purchasing our flowers from Millhome Nursery. All orders are due Sunday, March 23rd. Pricing is unknown for lilies and mums. The supplier is from Canada and cost is pending due to current tariffs that maybe put in place.

Easter Lily and Mums -. When we have pricing, I will pass this along ASAP.

Hydrangea (colors vary) \$34.00

Azalea (colors vary) \$25.00

Reiger Begonia (colors vary) \$19.00

Flowers will be delivered to church on April 11th.

Please place your orders on the signup sheet by Sunday, March 23rd. Make your check out to Bethlehem Ladies and you can place in Ginny Schultz mailbox.

- The Mission Trip is a week 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. A HUGE “Thank You” to those who have already given!
- 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 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
- First Lutheran Church, located at 521 N. Eighth St. in Manitowoc, will once again host the Annual Spring Chili Warm-up & Bake Sale on Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Manitowoc County Habitat for Humanity. Please see the flyer for more information.



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Those Grieving:

Wayne Stauss
Don Mogenson

Those struggling with health issues:

Diane Fidlin	Tony Bowe
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Tom Lefeber
Marie Rietbrock	Molly
Dana	Mary Beth Molitor
Hubert	Jason

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

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

Monday 3/10:

Tuesday 3/11: 6:30pm Consistory; *Happy Birthday Steven Voland and Scott Umland!*

Wednesday 3/12: 5:30pm Lenten Devotions;

Thursday 3/13:

Friday 3/14: *Happy Birthday Jennifer Deignan!*

Saturday 3/15:

Sunday 3/16: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30a Beth Ladies; 9:30am Worship **Spirit Articles due**

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