

**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

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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

***Lord, I am of your people :: therefore I declare my
praise***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

#556 "Surely the Presence..."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Inspired by Psalm 126)

One: With our ancestors we recall God's great works

Many: **The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

One: With our ancestors we pray

Many: **May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

One: With our ancestors we rejoice

Many: **Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

All: **Let us worship God, in this community and in the company of our ancestors.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy One, whether we are eager to draw near to you, or we are cautious, whether we are certain of your guidance, or we are unsure how you call to us, you are present. Open our senses and open our hearts to experience your fullness. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #41 "To God Be the Glory"**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Holy Jesus, you call us to follow you. We want to respond, but our attention flutters. One day we are steady disciples and another day we are distracted by the clamors of the world or by our own needs. Forgive our wavering commitment and make us more reliable disciples. May we respond each day when you beckon, becoming ever more faithful. Amen.

(Time of reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

God is continually creating, doing a new thing in us.

Where we have erred, God brings us back into Gods embrace.

In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to our Savior. Amen

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#564 refrain “All Will be Well”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord,

who makes a way in the sea,

a path in the mighty waters,

who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126 – p. 709 – Leader-Odd, People-Even

John 12:1-8 -Mary Anoints Jesus

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But

Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #62 "You are My All in All"

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... 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 – Jingle Change for April supports One Great Hour of Sharing.

MISSION MOMENT

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #438 v1**

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, even as Mary poured out her love for Jesus, he was preparing to pour out his life on the cross for her and for us all. We are grateful for such love, given and received, then given again. Accept the gifts we bring and anoint them with your Spirit so that they will flow into the world, refreshing others with your mercy and love.

***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

Go in peace; be of good courage, hold fast to what is good, render no one evil for evil;

we will strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, and honor all people,
lastly, love and serve God, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Christ and Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever.

Thanks be to our God. We go in peace. Amen

POSTLUDE

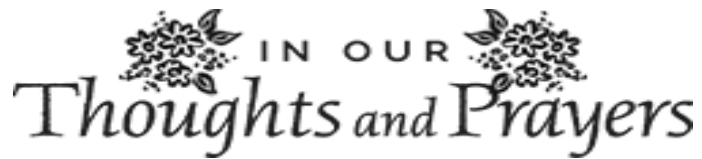
****This morning's prayers and liturgies are used with permission from: <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-5c-april-6/>**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The WI Conference of the UCC will hold its annual meeting June 6-7 at Green Lake Conference Center. We could use 1-2 delegates. Please see pastor Randy if interested.
- On Sunday, May 4, Pastor Randy will be holding a “Communion class” during Sunday School. The start time for this class will be based on when it’s convenient for the SS teachers. It shouldn’t be more than 30 min, depending on student questions. Then they can return to their regular class. If you are interested in your child learning about the meaning behind the Lord’s Supper, please sign your child up in the Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sunday, April 13 @ 3pm – Dramatization of da Vinci’s *Last Supper* – St Paul’s UCC, Sheboygan – See flyer
- Open House – Friday, April 11- 2:30pm-5pm – Bay at Elkhart Lake Assisted Living – Music, prizes, refreshments. See flyer
- Brat Fry – Wed. May 14 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley



Those Grieving:

Robin Huegel (MIL of Emily Huegel-Jane's Daughter)
Nell Partin
Family of Luka Tipton

Those struggling with health issues:

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

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer	Helen Henning
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This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 4/6: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00 Confirmation Class; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Lily Watson*

Monday 4/7: *Happy Birthday Marie Mueller!*

Tuesday 4/8: 6:30pm Consistory; *Happy Birthday Will Mathes*

Wednesday 4/9: 5:30pm Lenten Devotions; *Happy Birthday Sandy Tesch!*

Thursday 4/10:

Friday 4/11:

Saturday 4/12:

Sunday 4/13: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Palm Sunday Worship

April Pantry Items:

Bottle Of Hand Soap, Dish Soap or Shampoo

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](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)
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HOLY WEEK- Ecumenical Services

April 18 -Join us for Good Friday worship at
Bethlehem. Coffee and Conversations at 5:30pm –
Worship at 6:00pm

April 19 – The Great Vigil of Easter – Beginning at 7pm
– St. Johns's UCC in New Holstein