



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, April 13, 2025

Last Sunday in Lent

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**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please gather in the fellowship hall prior to worship. Following the opening liturgy we will sing and process in while waving our palm branches. (Use caution when waving branches)

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Hosanna! Blessed is our King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

Blessed is Jesus, our Saviour and our friend!

**Glory to the Creator and the Spirit,
ever three and ever one!**

***OPENING PRAYER:**

L: Christ is with us

P: Christ is in our midst

L: Let us pray,

All: Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph - not the city made by human hands, but the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory forever. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray: **O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. In these events of defeat and victory, you have sealed the closeness of death and destruction, of humiliation and exultation. We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come, and that Christ will come again Amen! Come, Christ Jesus!**

L: Let us go forth in peace!

P: In the name of Christ, Amen!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

1. All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and
anthems
Before You we present.
2. Thou art the King of Israel
Thou David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name

- comest,
The King and Blessed One.

To thee before thy passion
They sang their hymns of
praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.
3. Thou didst their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who all in good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King!

All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN #187 all "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (wave branches)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we enter this Holy Week, we may be tempted to skip parts of the story that begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, There are challenging chapters ahead of us in this week. We may want to turn away from the betrayals and hardships and suffering in the Passion Story, just as we too often turn away from the hardships and suffering of people in our own time. Forgive us when our focus slips. Bring us back to the path you set before us. Renew our strength and increase our faithfulness. Amen. (time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Receive this good news: God reaches out to us to draw us close. 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 LESSONS

Psalms 118 vs 1-2; 19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say,

'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

**This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

**Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Luke 19:28-48 - Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

'Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.' As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, 'If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.'

Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; and he said, 'It is written,

"My house shall be a house of prayer"; but you have made it a den of robbers.'

Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.

CHILDREN'S TIME

MESSAGE

*HYMN #184 vs 1-5 "Were you There?"

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

OFFERTORY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord Jesus, compared with the gift you gave for our sake, what we offer today seems so small. Bless our gifts with your love so that they accomplish more than we can even imagine. Bless our lives, too, so that what we do and say will show we have the commitment to follow you, whatever the cost. 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 AND 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 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: Check for flyers in fellowship hall

-Sunday, April 13 @ 3pm – Dramatization of da Vinci's *Last Supper* – St Paul's UCC, Sheboygan

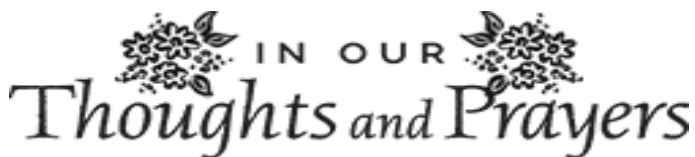
-Pancake Supper – April 27 – 3pm-6pm – Zion Lutheran – New Holstein

-Drive thru Pork Chop Dinner- Thurs, May 1 – 3:30pm-6pm – Saron UCC (reservations required).

-Fish Fry - Fri. May 9 – Community UCC, Elkhart Lake – 4p-7p- Dine in or carry out

-Brat Fry – Wed. May 14 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley

-May 3,4,9,10 – Dinner Theater @ Gloria Dei Lutheran in New Holstein – “Murder Me, Murder me Not” \$25/person see flyer



Those Grieving:

Robin Huegel (MIL of Emily Huegel-Jane's Daughter)

Nell Partin

Family of Luka Tipton

Those struggling with health issues:

Diane Fidlin

Will Mathes

Darlene Horneck

Brad Westphalen

Jessica Horneck

Marie Rietbrock

Dana

Jill Sheets

Mary Beth Molitor

Heidi Konen

Emily (Melissa's cousin)

Dawson Horneck

Tom Lefeber

Donna Firman

Hubert

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

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

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

Monday 4/14: *Happy Birthday Kerry Rumpff, Brandon Schmitt, Ryan Schmitt, Jacob Riesterer, Trevor Muehlbauer and Noah Biwan!*

Tuesday 4/15: *Happy Birthday Dawson Horneck and David Moore! Happy Anniversary Gary & Doris Rabe!*

Wednesday 4/16: *Happy Birthday Blake Holz and Easton Rumpff! Happy Anniversary Bill & Karen Schlegel!!!* ****Spirit Articles Due****

Thursday 4/17: *Happy Birthday Emerson Witkowski!*

Friday 4/18: 5:30 Coffee and Conversation - 6pm Community Good Friday Worship @ Bethlehem

Saturday 4/19: 6pm Easter Vigil @ St. John's UCC, New Holstein; *Happy Birthday Dominick Sheets!*

Sunday 4/20: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Easter Worship with Communion

April Pantry Items:

Bottle Of Hand Soap, Dish Soap or Shampoo

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 6pm – St. Johns's UCC in New Holstein