



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, November 9, 2025
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver
Musician: 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

Sing to the Lord a new song :: God has done wondrous things!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #557 v. 1 "I Just Came to Praise the Lord"
I just came to praise the Lord, I just came to praise the Lo—rd
I just came to praise his Ho—ly Name, I just came to praise the Lord

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We call on God, who is as near to us as our next breath.

We gather to meet God, who has promised to bless us.

God is great and greatly to be praised.

Through many generations, God has acted among us.

Meditate on the wondrous works of our creator.

Marvel at the glorious splendor of God's majesty.

God is the Savior of all who seek refuge.

God hears our cries and fulfills our deepest desires.

Remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.
Make a joyful noise and break forth in song.
Our mouths will speak the praise of God.
Let all flesh bless God's holy name.

*OPENING PRAYER:

Give ear to our prayers, gracious God, and attend to our cries. We call on you, knowing that you will answer and make your way known to us. We seek to follow the path you show us. We take courage, knowing that you are too kind and just in all you do. When we need assurance, you gather us in the shadow of your wing. As we mature in faith, you give us wings to fly on our own. Meet each one of us in our particular need this hour. Amen.

*HYMN #25

“Sing a New Song”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

God invites sinners to reclaim their former glory. All who have stumbled and fallen are welcomed and lifted up. God will listen when we repent and will answer when we desire to change.

All knowing God, we are reluctant to identify weakness or wickedness in ourselves. We do not recognize violent behavior or lawless rebellion as a personal problem. We would not think of elevating ourselves to take your place. Yet we find ourselves viewing the world from the narrow perspective of our own self-interest. Our anger at others spills over into our words and deeds. We ignore you in our decision making and fail to give thanks to you in our daily living. Without your forgiveness and transforming love there is little hope for us. Hear us and save us, we pray Amen.

Time of silent reflection...

WORDS OF GRACE

God judges with righteousness and equity.

God will strengthen us in every good work and word.

By the kindness of our creator, we are saved from self-centered rebellion and equipped for abundant living.

We are called to join the chorus that praises God, proclaims good news, and invites others to share God's grace. Thanks be the Holy One!

*RESPONSE #565 v. 1

“Blessed be the Name of the Lord”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Haggai 1:15-2:9 - Amplified Bible

¹⁵ on the ^[a]twenty-fourth day of the sixth month (Sept 21, 520 b.c.) in the second year of Darius the king.

2 On the twenty-first day of the ^[b]seventh month (Oct 17, 520 b.c., the second year of Darius king of Persia), the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying, ²“Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying, ³‘Who is left among you who saw this ^[c]house (temple) in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison? ⁴But now be courageous, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord, ‘be courageous also, Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and be courageous, all you people of the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the Lord of hosts. ⁵‘As for the promise which I made with you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit stands [firm and immovable] *and* continues with you; do not fear!’ ⁶For thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Once more, in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. ⁷I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the desirable *and* precious things of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory *and* splendor,’ says the Lord of hosts. ⁸‘The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’ declares the Lord of hosts. ⁹‘The latter ^[d]glory of this house will be greater than the former,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘and in this place I shall give [the ultimate] peace *and* prosperity,’ declares the Lord of hosts.”

Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song

because he has done wonderful things!

His own strong hand and his own holy arm

have won the victory!

**² The Lord has made his salvation widely known;
he has revealed his righteousness
in the eyes of all the nations.**

³ God has remembered his loyal love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
every corner of the earth has seen our God’s salvation.

**⁴ Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
Be happy!
Rejoice out loud!
Sing your praises!**

⁵ Sing your praises to the Lord with the lyre—
with the lyre and the sound of music.

**⁶ With trumpets and a horn blast,
shout triumphantly before the Lord, the king!**

⁷ Let the sea and everything in it roar;
the world and all its inhabitants too.
⁸ **Let all the rivers clap their hands;
let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether**
⁹ before the Lord
because he is coming to establish justice on the earth!
**He will establish justice in the world rightly;
he will establish justice among all people fairly.**

Luke 20:27-38 - Common English Bible

²⁷ Some Sadducees, who deny that there's a resurrection, came to Jesus and asked, ²⁸ "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that *if a man's brother dies* leaving a widow *but no children, the brother must marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.*"^[a] ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers. The first man married a woman and then died childless. ³⁰ The second ³¹ and then the third brother married her. Eventually all seven married her, and they all died without leaving any children. ³² Finally, the woman died too. ³³ In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? All seven were married to her."

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "People who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are considered worthy to participate in that age, that is, in the age of the resurrection from the dead, won't marry nor will they be given in marriage. ³⁶ They can no longer die, because they are like angels and are God's children since they share in the resurrection. ³⁷ Even Moses demonstrated that the dead are raised—in the passage about the burning bush, when he speaks of the Lord as *the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.*"^[b] ³⁸ He isn't the God of the dead but of the living. To him they are all alive."

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE

"Praise" by Elevation Worship

SERMON

*HYMN #502

"Forward Through the Ages"

PRAYER CONCERNS

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.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

**Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. November's Jingle Change supports The Sunday School's community Christmas project.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

**Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,
His Son (2 times)**

And now...

let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

**Because of what the Lord has done
for us" (2 times)**

Give thanks... (2 times)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the future glory of your church, we dedicate our gifts. Toward the reign of love in our midst, we consecrate ourselves. O God of all the ages, show yourself to us in our time. Work within us individually and among us as a community of faith, that we may experience resurrection and carry our good news into our 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

A kind and justice God sends us out into the world.
We are bearers of truth beyond our understanding.
We have been comforted and strengthened this day.
We have good news to share with the world.
God watches over those who respond in love.
God fills us with hope and multiplies our good works.
Will praise God as long as we live.
We will witness to the resurrection day by day.
Take courage and sing a new song.
Work in new ways, for the spirit abides in you.
We will break down barriers with joyous daring.
We will live with a spirit of adventure. Amen

POSTLUDE

***liturgies for this morning were used with permission from "Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C" by Lavon Bayler, Pilgrim Press, 2001©*

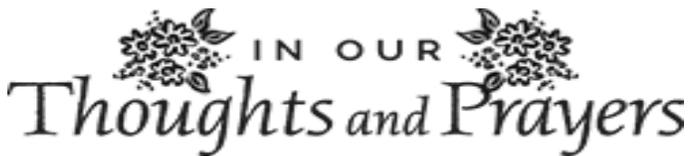
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bethlehem Ladies will be taking Poinsettia orders. We have single, double and triple red or white poinsettia available. Order deadline is Sunday, November 30th, 2025. Sign up sheet in the fellow ship hall. Please make check payable to Ginny Schultz.
- Bethlehem family and friends can help provide **Thanksgiving Dinner for the Immanuel Food Pantry Clients**. The following items are needed to fill the Thanksgiving Dinner bags: 35 Boxes of Mashed Potatoes, 37 Jars of Turkey Gravy, 40 Boxes of Jello, 4 Boxes of Stuffing, 40 Bags of Marshmallows, 40 Cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup, 80 Cans of Green Beans, 80 Cans of Corn, 30 Cans of Cranberry Sauce, 40 Cans of French Fried Onions, 39 Cans of Yams, and 40 Cans of Pie Filling (Apple or Pumpkin). Please bring your donations by November 16th.

- **RCF YOUTH FRIENDSGIVING!!!** All high school-aged youth (Grades 9-12) are invited to St. Peter's UCC on Sunday, Nov. 23rd from 4pm-6pm. Bring a game and snack to share. Bring a friend! (see flyer)
- **Thanksgiving Eve!** Wednesday, Nov. 26 we will be joining with St. John's UCC (NH) and Gloria Dei Lutheran for worship. The service will include communion and be held at Gloria Dei (N1230 7 Corners Rd, New Holstein). Everyone is invited to a light supper at "Gloria's Meals" beginning at 5pm - Worship at 6:30pm. Pie and coffee (decaf) to follow worship.

Community Announcements – See flyers in fellowship hall for details.

- **Lecture: How We walk into a Room: Being Christian in Shared Spaces-** Nov. 10, 6:30-8pm- Lakeland University - See flyer
- **Kiel Municipal Band Scholarship Concert**
Celebrate music and mentorship at the Kiel Performing Arts Center on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 PM! This grand finale of the Friends of Kiel Performing Arts 2025 Series supports the Edgar P. Thiessen Scholarship, helping local high school seniors pursue their dreams. Tickets at www.cur8.com (search "Kiel"). Let's pack the house with heart and harmony!



Joys:

The birth of Ryland Everson Rugowski – Parents: McKenna (Mueller) and Daniel Rugowski

Those Grieving:

The Family of Jeanette Wriedt
The Family of Will Mathes

Those struggling with health issues:

Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Brad Westphalen	Jessica Horneck
Sofia	Melissa
Hubert	Larry
Dana	Molly
Chase Goekes	Lynn
Mark	Darya

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin Nimmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sunday 11/9: 8:00am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship

Monday 11/10:

Tuesday 11/11: 6:30pm Consistory; *Happy Anniversary Arlin and Donna Truttmann-Retlich!*

Wednesday 11/12:

Thursday 11/13: 10:30am BUCC leads worship at Field of Dreams

Friday 11/14:

Saturday 11/15: *Happy Birthday Julie Mueller-Meyer!*

Sunday 11/16: 8:00am Sunday School; 8:30am Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Sunday Worship

November Panty Item: Box of Cake Mix or Frosting

