



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, November 16, 2025

23rd 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**

One: God spoke to Abraham.

All: Abraham heard God's voice, and set out confidently into the unknown.

One: God challenged Moses.

All: Moses heard God's voice, and brought freedom to a people.

One: God empowered Amos.

All: Amos heard God's voice, and exposed attitudes of selfishness and greed to the light of day.

One: God anointed Jesus.

All: Jesus was aware of God's presence, and lives to transform humankind.

One: God's call comes to our faith community.

All: We respond to God's call with worship and with life-bringing work.

*OPENING PRAYER:

One: We seek to come into loving relationship with you, our Living God. As a parent holds in close embrace a child who is cherished and loved,

All: So we are aware of your compassion to us, most caring God.

One: As a grandparent models patience and generosity to a grandchild,

All: So we are aware of your graciousness to us and to all humankind, most giving God.

One: As a best friend is able to listen to the deepest longings of heart and soul,

All: So we are aware of your heartfelt concern for us, O ever-present God.

One: Deepen our relationship with you, Loving God, that created in your image and empowered by the example of Jesus Christ, we may be enabled to change our small corner of the world, for good.

All: Amen.

*HYMN #221

"O Day of God, Draw Nigh"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

One: Stand firm! Be ready for subtle tests and temptations.

All: We will "look before we leap," and think carefully before we speak.

One: Prepare thoroughly! Plan carefully for faithful ventures.

All: We will take the preparation time we need, before committing ourselves to the tasks of Christ.

One: Be on your guard! Respond promptly to the call to stand with the vulnerable and powerless.

All: We will not turn down the call to compassionate action, just because it interferes with our personal plans.

One: Dedicate yourselves to the Way of Christ! Heart, mind, and spirit need to be engaged, if the Way is to be followed faithfully.

All: We will give priority to our Christian responsibilities, but we will not neglect our family and friends.

One: Be alert! Stand ready for the act of terror, the revenge of fanatical men and women.

All: If our faith in God is sure, if our spirits are prayerfully alive, then nothing will overcome us. *Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Your careful reflection, and your determination to act, will identify you as a faithful disciple.

All: We will not shrink from the tough journey,

and we will have fun as we do Christ's work.

One: God's peace will be your peace.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE #565 v. 1

"Blessed be the Name of the Lord"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 65:17-25 (NIV)

¹⁷ "See, I will create

new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,

for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ "Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach a hundred
will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.

For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy
the work of their hands.

²³ They will not labor in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the Lord,
they and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain," says the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (NIV)

⁶ In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

Luke 21:5-19 (NIV)

⁵ Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶ "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

⁷ "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

⁸ He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. ⁹ When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

¹⁰ Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

¹² "But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to

death. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ Stand firm, and you will win life.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE "Shout to the Lord" Hillsong Worship

SERMON

*HYMN #355 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

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**

One: Receive our gifts, Loving God, and with them receive the firm intention, of
this faith community,

**All: To praise joyfully,
to create opportunities,
to renew self-confidence,
to encourage fresh starts,
to comfort the sick and bereaved,
to nurture the disheartened,
to encourage faithfulness,
to practice mission,
in the Way of Jesus. 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

One: We are ready for God's work in the coming week.

**All: We will listen carefully,
we will prepare thoroughly,
we will encourage with sensitivity,
we will vision faithfully,
we will work creatively,**

**we will care compassionately,
we will speak out boldly,
we will follow Christ joyfully.**

One: And God will go with you!

POSTLUDE

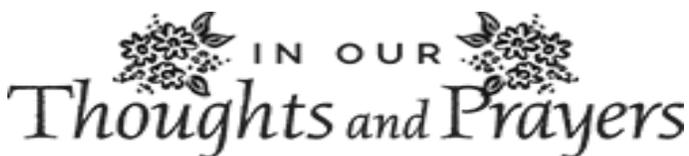
***liturgies for this morning were used with permission from: Sparks, David. Prayers to Share: Year C. Wood Lake Books, Kelowna, BC. 2003 and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>*

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.
- **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.
- Again, the confirmation students will be preparing and serving breakfast to cover the costs of their winter retreat. Please join them on Sunday, Dec. 7 following worship. Freewill donations will be collected.

Community Announcements – See flyers in fellowship hall for details.

None at this time



Joys:

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

Those Grieving:

The Family of Tom Phillip, Jr
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 Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

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

Monday 11/17: *Happy Birthday Darlean Rumpff!*

Tuesday 11/18: *Happy Birthday Pat & Bonnie Hoban!*

Wednesday 11/19: 6pm Confirmation Class; **Spirit News Due**

Thursday 11/20: 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry

Friday 11/21: *Happy Birthday Heidi Konen!*

Saturday 11/22: *Happy Birthday Keith Bowe and Asher Rodriquez!*

Sunday 11/23: 8:00am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship; Decorate church for Christmas; *Happy Birthday Ellie Holz!*

November Panty Item: Box of Cake Mix or Frosting

