

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Inspired by Psalm 148)

One: Praise the Holy One! Praise God from the sanctuary and across the screen. Praise God in the morning and the evening...in the afternoon and at night!

Many: Praise God all people, all nations, all generations! Praise the Holy One who forms and shapes us!

One: Let our adoration join with the angels! May our songs join with the saints!

Many: Let us worship the Holy One with gladness! Let us worship our God in truth!

One: Praise the Holy One for their abiding presence! Praise God for their wondrous works!

Many: Let the name of the Holy One be exalted forever and ever! Praise the Holy One!

*OPENING PRAYER:

Holy Love, we delight in your presence among us. We anticipate your wisdom, assurance, and challenge. Soften our hearts, enliven our spirits, and expand our minds so that we may reflect your heart, spirit, and mind. Through our remembering, give us courage to face these times and hope to seek your kingdom. In the name of the One who came to us and lives and reigns with you, we pray. Amen.

HYMNS

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Righteous One, you make all things new, and yet, we often cling to those things, actions, and attitudes that do not serve your purposes. We refuse to confront ourselves and examine our feelings and reasoning out of fear. We may be more concerned with being wrong and needing to change than being faithful to your way and confident of your grace. Meet us in our fears with the assurance that you go with us and welcome us when we turn back to the path you have laid.. Transform us, renew us, and redeem us for your glory and in your love. Amen. *Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF GRACE

Precious and beloved creation of God, you have been made for God's companionship. The One who will never leave you nor forsake you is faithful to forgive, revive, and empower you.

We receive the grace that God gives and accept the opportunity to live into the people that the Holy One has created us to be and that the world needs.

*RESPONSE

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

HYMNS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Hebrews 6:13-20

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.”^[a] ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Job 42:1-9

Then Job replied to the Lord:

² “I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³ You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴ “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’

⁵ My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶ Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

Epilogue

⁷ After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has. ⁸ So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the Lord told them; and the Lord accepted Job’s prayer.

SERMON *“Anchors Away: Finding Your Anchor Before the Hurricanes Hit”*

HYMNS

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 #403 *“Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”*

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Leader: Generosity is a spiritual gift and a discipline. Let us cultivate our practice of trusting in God's provision, abundance, and love by giving generously to meet the needs of our community and beyond.

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. December's Jingle Change supports the UCC's Christmas Fund. (*“The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.”*)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Doxology to tune of “The First Noel”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye, heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Wise God, we present these offerings to you and dedicate our time, talents, and treasures for your kingdom. May your will be done, our sibling's needs be met, and your name be known through what we share in praise and thanksgiving for all you have given to us in time, talent, and treasure. Amen.

HYMNS

BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

When we leave this place, we keep our connection to one another.

When we leave this time, we keep our focus on the God we trust.

When we leave this service, we keep our worship going in service in the world.

May our commitments bloom, our hope flourish, and our ministry prosper as we go forth in God's love.

POSTLUDE

***liturgies for this morning were used with permission from: ucc.org/worship/ unless noted otherwise.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pastor Randy is out of state until 12/31. In the event emergency pastoral care is needed, Rev. Dan Krueger of Saron UCC has agreed to be on call. 920-946-3351
- Bethlehem's ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, Jan. 25 after a short worship service. Please plan to attend! Also, any annual report items for the "packet" need to be submitted to Traci by Sunday, Jan. 4. (trabefamily5@gmail.com) Thank you!
- Chili Supper Tickets Available – packets of 10 tickets for the February 4, 2026 Chili Supper are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign out any packets you take. If you'd like less than 10 please see Kaye Radder. Payment is due by Feb 4.
- Bethlehem UCC is signed up to work at the Sheboygan Warming Center on Sunday, January 26. The shift is from 6pm-9pm. The work involves setting up for dinner, serving dinner, washing dishes (commercial dishwasher) and cleaning up. There are five slots available. Sign up in the fellowship hall.
- CALLING NEW MEMBERS!! If you've been visiting for a while and feel like Bethlehem is a "good fit" for you, we will be inducting new members on Sunday, February 8. We will meet at 8:45 am that morning for a little paperwork and Bethlehem "education," followed by the induction during worship. We will celebrate after worship with a reception. Please see Pastor if you'd like to join Bethlehem, or if you have questions.

Community Announcements – See flyers in fellowship hall for details.

Do you find technology daunting? The Manitowoc ADRC is holding a workshop on 2/25/26 and 3/4/26 from 2-4pm. See flyer for details.



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	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Mark	Molly

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sunday 12/28: NO Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Hymn Sing

Monday 12/29: *Happy Birthday Dawn Wirtz*

Tuesday 12/30:

Wednesday 12/31 *Happy Birthday Cassie Jeanty!*

Thursday 1/1: HAPPY NEW YEAR! *Happy Birthday Kenzie Koppenhaver and Grant Taylor!*

Friday 1/2: *Happy Birthday Jayden Jeanty and Girlie Westphalen!*

Saturday 1/3: *Happy Birthday Carol Wehrmann!*

Sunday 1/4: NO Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Communion

Jan/Feb Panty Item: Can of Soup

