



**LORD OF THE
HARVEST**

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, June 14, 2026

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Steven Voland

Musician: Polly Jeanty

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

***= 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

I love the Lord :: He has heard my call for mercy

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549

"As We Gather"

As we gather may your spirit work within us

As we gather may we glorify your name

Knowing well that as our heart begin to worship

We'll be blessed because we came; We'll be blessed because we came

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (inspired by Psalm 116)

One: We call on the Holy One as long as we live! What shall we return to the Holy One for God's bounty to us?

Many: **With love and laughter, we praise the Holy One!**

One: What shall we return to the Holy One for God's bounty to us?

Many: Lifting the cup of salvation and offering a sacrifice of thanksgiving, we praise the Holy One!

One: What shall we return to the Holy One for God's bounty to us?

Many: With the fruit of our worship and the fruit of our lives, we praise the Holy One!

*OPENING PRAYER:

God who calls us, we are here, here to serve, and here to worship. We are here to sing and to pray, to let the word resound in us and the community to envelop us. We are here, O God, to know you and be known by you. We enter with thanksgiving and praise. We enter in safety of love and hope of peace. Holy One, we respond to your call. We are here. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #37

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

God of Grace, we give you thanks for love that transcends our shortcomings, that greets us with mercy, and that offers the possibility of transformed life. Plant seeds in us that will stretch our faith in you and in us. Nurture us to live miraculous lives. Let our faith and our work join with your power to make us fruitful despite our limitations, doubts, and fears. May the fruit we produce add sustenance and hope in your kingdom. Amen. (time of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

Gracious ones, you may receive the nourishment and encouragement of God to be fruitful even when the Holy One amazes us beyond expectation and dream. **God is with us in season and out of season. We expect an abundant and bountiful harvest to witness to God's grace at work in and through us.**

* RESPONSE #560 (tune: Doxology) "Be Thou, O God Exalted High"
**Be thou, O God exalted high; And as Thy glory fills the sky,
So let it be on earth displayed, 'Til Thou art here, as there, obeyed. Amen.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 18:1-15

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, ^[a] do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and

rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”

“Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs^[b] of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

⁹ “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

¹⁰ Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19

¹ I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.

² **Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.**

¹² What shall I return to the Lord
for all his goodness to me?

¹³ **I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ **Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants.**

¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, Lord;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.

¹⁷ **I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁹ **in the courts of the house of the Lord—
in your midst, Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.**

Matthew 9:35-10:8

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, ^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

CHILDREN’S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE “If We are the Body” by Casting Crowns.

SERMON

*HYMN #228 vs. 1,3,4,5 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart”

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD’S PRAYER

Petitions end with: God of the earth and all its peoples, **Let your light shine!**

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 #226 v. 1 “Spirit of the Living God”

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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. Jingle Change for June supports The UCC’s Annual “Strengthen the Church” Offering. “The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations” - ucc.org)

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE 447 v.1 “All Things are Yours”

**All things are yours! We make that true, when we return our gifts to you.
And so we give, and so we share, in Christ’s strong name expressing care.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God, thank you for the gifts we receive and that we give. Bless them so that needs will be met, your beloved will experience communal embrace, and you will be honored and glorified. 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

POSTLUDE

***liturgies and prayers for today we used with permission from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>
and <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-3a-june-14/>*

Bethlehem Announcements:

Vacation Bible School!

Top o' the mornin'! Get ready to explore the Emerald Isle and the powerful words of Psalm 23! In a confusing world, kids need to know there's a God who cares for them. As they journey through lush landscapes, they'll discover the shepherd - King David and learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, fear to faith, and uncertainty to trust in God's Word.

Once again, we are partnering with St. Marks/ St. James for Vacation Bible School! All are welcome, and needn't be members of any of the involved congregations. Invite a friend! Bonus: It's free!! There is no cost to families! If possible, we will attempt to work out some sort of transportation from Bethlehem to St. Marks. Additionally, we would always accept volunteers to help with activities, even if just for ONE hour!

Enrollment forms were mailed to Sunday School families, but if you need one, please ask Pastor Randy. Please return your enrollment by June 30 so we can begin preparing for classes.

- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation. See items next to the sound room. Couch and chair are in the youth room.
 - VHS tapes
 - Large TV stand
 - Also available is a couch and rocking chair

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

Those dealing with health concerns:

Elaine Brill	Tom Knier
Tyler Meyer	Janet
Judy Brockway	Davin Horneck
Jackie Volland	Karen Laack
Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Margaret
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)

And for those in our church family who are dealing with concerns but wish to keep them private.

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin Nimmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 6/14: 9:30am Sunday worship; 6:30pm VB game at Bethlehem; *Happy Birthday Sebastin Rugowski!*

Monday 6/15: *Happy Birthday Kevin Volland!*

Tuesday 6/16: *Happy Birthday Zoe Watson!*

Wednesday 6/17: *Happy Anniversary Jason & Jennifer Brockway!*

Thursday 6/18: *Happy Birthday Mike Brockway!*

Friday 6/19: *Happy Anniversary Ryan & Sarah Arnold!*

Saturday 6/20: *Happy Birthday Bonnie Zorn, Maria Hoban, and Eric Muehlbauer!*

Sunday 6/21: 9:30am Sunday worship; 6:30pm VB game at Bethlehem; *Happy Anniversary Austin & Mariah Lau!*

May/June Panty Item: Cereal

