

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, August 21, 2022

Worship led by: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Jeremiah 1)*

One: O God, you knew us before we were born.

All: **Throughout our life you have gone with us.**

One: You know our reluctance to speak and work for you.

All: **But you say, "Believe in yourselves you can do it!"**

One: We have no reason to fear, no reason to hang back.

All: **God will give us the words to say and the confidence to carry out our faithful tasks.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

One: You are our rock, O God, our strong foundation.

All: **We build our lives on your words of truth;
the witness of your saints directs us.**

One: You are our rock, O God, our strong foundation.

All: **We find a place in your family of faith;
their friendship encourages us.**

One: You are our rock, O God, our strong foundation.

All: **We are challenged to change our neighborhood for good,
to bring healing and support to those around us.**

One: You are our rock, O God, our strong foundation.

All: **We are confronted with darkness in our world;
working in the light of Christ we can make a difference. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN: #456 vs 1-2-5

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Only you know how we are held back, O God.

All: **Held back by self-doubts, held back by fear of the unknown.**

One: Only you know our lack of freedom, O God.

All: **Our reluctance to speak our mind, our unwillingness to think differently than our friends.**

One: Only you know our most cherished dreams, O God.

All: **Our desire to break free from the familiar way, to be liberated from the path that is mapped out for us.**

One: Only you know our longing for joy in the spirit, O God.

All: **Our need to experience your inspiring love, our will to straighten up all that is crooked in our part of this world.**

(Time for silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: You cut us loose, O God; you let us feel our freedom, and choose our own way.

All: **And if that way is faithful and fulfilling, you walk with us, sustaining us, and supporting us.**

One: The freely chosen way is the way that leads to peace of body, mind, and spirit.

All: **We will accept that peace, thanks be to God! Amen.**

*RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the LORD said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy";
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,

says the LORD.'

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

'Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.'

Psalm 71 – p. 652 – People read even-numbered verses

Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

SERMON

*HYMN #399

"He Touched Me"

CALL TO THE OFFERING - (*Offerings and Jingle Change are collected before and after worship. The basket is located near the double doors to the sanctuary.*)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be:

All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: You free us to offer the best we are able, O God.

All: **The best of our gifts.**

The best of our striving.

The best of our friendship.

The best of our faithfulness.

The best of our abilities.

The best of our will for justice.

The best of our eternal hopefulness.

One: Nothing is offered to God in vain!

All: **God will receive our offerings and richly bless them. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER... LORD'S PRAYER (congregation may be seated)
 Each petition ends with, "And so we sing," -- People respond by singing:

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that
 I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

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.

*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.***

COMMISSIONING

One: From here to the waiting world is just a few steps. We leave this sanctuary with confidence.

All: **God will enable us to make the crooked paths straight,
 and the rough places smooth.
 God will grant us freedom from the ways that restrict us,
 and boundless joy in our adventuring.
 God will give us love within our families,
 and trust within our deepest friendships.
 And God will never leave us in this earthly time,
 or when this time merges with eternity.**

One: Go in peace, you are ready for the journey! **Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Responsive Liturgies taken from Prayers to Share – Year C, David Sparks, 2003

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

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

AUGUST JINGLE CHANGE supports Bethlehem's "adopt a facility" project

Those in our thoughts and prayers:



Joys:

Birth of Maxwell Voland- Born Aug. 12 to Kevin and Mandy Voland
The marriage of Steven and Jackie Voland on July 30.

Families who have lost loved ones:

Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)
DuWayne Ninmer
Jane Markelz
Everett Henning

Those struggling with health issues:

McKenna Rugowski	Finn (a young boy with cancer)
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Steve Rumpff
Glen Schad	Jessica Horneck
Signe Burkhart	Dana P (friend of Melissa K)
Kenzie Koppenhaver	Darlene Horneck
Warren Fidlin	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

People of the Ukraine and others affected by war and violence.

People affected by recent gun violence in our nation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The blue and yellow candle on the altar is lit in unity with the people of the Ukraine.
- Field of Dreams is accepting visitors again! Merlin and Doris Mae would love to see you!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bethel UCC on County Line Road is having their annual Drive-Thru Chili Supper on Wednesday, October 5th from 11:00 am until 6:30 pm or until chili is gone. - Tickets are \$9.00 each.

Bethlehem's Spiritual Leadership:

Reverend Roy Rogers

Phone: 920.428.0183 or email:

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Randy Koppenhaver,

Licensed Lay Minister

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email:

randynmel5@gmail.com

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 8/21: 9:30am Worship;

Monday 8/22:

Tuesday 8/23:

Wednesday 8/24:

Thursday 8/25:

Friday 8/26:

Saturday 8/27: ~Happy Birthday Tasha Rabe!

Sunday 8/28: 9:30am Worship;

August Pantry Items: Jar of Peanut Butter or Jelly