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Sunday, August 8, 2021

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines

- Masks = You decide what's best for you, your loved ones and those around you.
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- The congregation will refrain from singing (Humming is permitted)
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- Please wait for an usher to dismiss you after the service.
- For those who wish to congregate, you are asked to do so outside
- Please stay home if you or a member of your family is not feeling well.
- Scrip will be available for purchase on the first and third Sundays. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wait for God, who deals gently with us. Watch for God's appearance among us.

All: Out of the depths we cry out to God. Will God hear the voice of our supplications?

One: In all times and places, we can rely on God. We can know steadfast love, here and now.

All: We will keep our morning watch together. We will support one another as we seek to know God.

One: Find hope in God's power to redeem us. Give thanks for the new day God promises to us.

All: Life's battles cannot destroy us. The losses we suffer are not the last word.

*OPENING PRAYER

We come to you, holy God, with our many needs. Some of us are people in authority with difficult decisions to make. Some of us are fighting battles we cannot win. Some have faced unexpected losses that tear at the very fabric of life. There are broken relationships among us, feelings that we do not want to admit, realities we do not want to face. There are also joys we have not really celebrated, reasons to give thanks which we have ignored. We come, O God, to be lifted out of our ruts and routines, seeking instead to find fullness of life with you. Amen.

SONG #434 "Precious Lord, Take my Hand" (no singing, please)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Living, forgiving God,
in Christ you promise us new life,
but we confess that we are in love with our old ways.
We cultivate bitterness over our disappointments;
anger can hold us hostage for years.
We find it easy to say one thing to someone's face
and something else behind their back.
Forgive us for falling short of your hopes for us.
Free us from the captivity of old habits and resentments,
and by your grace, renew us to live for love's sake. Amen.**
(silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is tender-hearted and gracious to all and has forgiven you in Christ Jesus. Trust in God's grace and be kind to one another, forgiving others as God has forgiven you. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Gloria Patri"

READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:4–8

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Psalm 34: 1-8 (Responsively)

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

***My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.***

O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

***I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.***

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

***This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,
and was saved from every trouble.***

The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

***O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.***

Ephesians 4:25–5:2

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up

stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

SERMON

SONG #491 “In Christ We are One Body” (no singing, please)

CONGREGATIONAL 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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

One: The steadfast love of God goes with you. The redeeming power of Christ sustains you.

All: We have been forgiven and renewed. We face another week with confidence.

One: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving. Live in love as Christ demonstrated God’s love.

All: We want to share the gifts of God’s love with others. We seek to build up the body of Christ.

One: Jesus said, “Whoever believes has eternal life.” Whoever eats the living bread will live forever.

All: We have been taught to live as God’s children. We can experience eternal life even today. Amen.

POSTLUDE *(Please wait to be dismissed by the ushers. Thank you.)*

DON’T FORGET TO GRAB A NOTE OFF THE GIVING TREE AS YOU LEAVE!

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Shirley – Mother of our renter

Those struggling with health issues:

Marilyn Hanke

Robert Cwiertniak (Mathes' son-in-law)

Casey Litz (Cousin of Bonnie Zorn)

Everett Henning

Warren Fidlin

Mother of Dawn Wirtz

Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)

Mike Mathes

Tom Brickbauer

Macullen Schnell

Jane Markelz

Dale Horneck

Olivia Marie

Jessica Horneck

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other concerns:

Division in the U.S.

Racial Justice and equality in our country

Health Care workers

Those whose businesses are struggling

Those who are out of work

People who live where violence and injustice prevails.

2021 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve 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'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING
SUPPORTS BETHLEHEM'S PLEDGE TO
OCWM (OUR CHURCH'S WIDER
MISSION)**

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

August 8 – Tournament

Noon @ St. James

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plan a visit to our homebound members! Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer are at Field of Dreams in Kiel (286-6189) Call to arrange a visit.

- The Annual Bethlehem Church Rummage Sale will be held in the church garage on August 12-14 and August 20-21. Help is needed with set-up, clean-up, and of course, sales.
- ***Please see the signup sheets in the fellowship hall or email to kayerad@hotmail.com or call (920) 894-7229 if you can spare even an hour to help.***

If you have items to donate, these can be dropped off in the new garage, next to the church starting Sunday, August 10. If you would like us to pick up your items, do not hesitate to contact members of the Merry Christians. We will be happy to make arrangements. Please no TVs or other electronics.

Save the date:

Sept 12: First day of Sunday School

Sept 19: Mission Sunday

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, Sept. 19 – “Faith in the Fall” music festival – Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove – 10am-2pm – see flyer

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 8/8: 9:30a Worship; Noon -Youth Volleyball tournament at St. James; *Happy Birthday David Meyer!*

Monday 8/9: *Happy Birthday David Radder!*

Tuesday 8/10: *Happy Anniversary Ryan & Molly Rabe!*

Wednesday 8/11: 9a-12p Rummage sale set up; 6:30p Consistory

Thursday 8/12: 3p-7p BUCC Rummage Sale; *Happy Anniversary Chad & Tammy Westphalen!*

Friday 8/13: 8a-5p BUCC Rummage Sale; *Happy Birthday Polly Jeanty and Linda Rabe!*

Saturday 8/14: 8a-12p BUCC Rummage Sale;

Sunday 8/15: 8:30a Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30a Worship;

Pantry item: Jar of peanut butter or jelly