



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, February 19, 2023**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Polly Jeanty**

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

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

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #549

"As We Gather"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: The coming of a new day calls us to anticipate God's dawn. The day of God's dawning is like a morning star rising.

**All: The light of God is like a devouring fire. God's brightness is too intense for our gaze.**

One: Come up to the mountain of God's presence. Wait for God to reveal divine intentions for us.

**All: We are eyewitnesses to God's majesty. We have sensed God's presence in the stories of Jesus.**

One: Look up, and do not be afraid. Jesus whom you seek, is transfigured before you.

**All: We will serve our God with fear and trembling. Happy are those whose refuge is in God.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**God of grace and wonder,  
you reveal your presence in so many different ways.**

**Your glory glistens on snowy mountain tops and sparkling streams.  
Your mercy moves in classroom conversations and bedside prayers.  
Your word of comfort frees us from fear;  
Your voice can transform our doubts.  
We come before you in worship  
to dwell in your goodness and seek your truth,  
as we offer all praise and honor to you,  
with Christ and the Holy Spirit, One God,  
mighty and merciful, now and always. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #155 all                    “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

#### PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**God of mystery and mercy,  
we confess we sometimes mistake our own desires for your will.  
We are reluctant to hear a word that challenges our assumptions.  
We seek assurances that we are right,  
and resist insights from the experience of others.  
Forgive us, O God.  
Shape our will to yours,  
so we can dwell more closely with you and with one another.**

(silent reflection)

#### WORDS OF GRACE

While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God’s love in Jesus Christ. God offers us mercy and newness of life this day, so be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL 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

##### **Exodus 24:12-18**

The LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**Psalm 99** p. 680 - Leader reads odd verses, people read even verses, everyone read v. 9

### **Matthew 17:1-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

## SERMON

\*HYMN #153 4x "We are Marching" (Use *dancing, singing, praying*)

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle change for February goes to the Sunday school's Leprosy mission)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Doxology"

**To God, all glorious heav'nly Light  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of love that transforms lives, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we have received in Christ, your beloved Son. Take our gifts and transform them into acts of love that will bless the world in his name. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER  
Petitions end with "God in your Mercy, **Hear our 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.**

\*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

POSTLUDE

\*\*Elements and liturgies for today's service were used with permission from ucc.org, <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>, and Taught By Love, Lavon Baylor, 2002.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Bethlehem Ladies will be taking orders for Easter Flowers. The flowers available are:

Easter Lily \$9.50  
Mum \$10.50  
Hydrangea \$32.00  
Azalea \$24.00  
Reiger Begonia \$9.00

The flowers will be in church on Palm Sunday and need to be taken home on Easter Sunday which is April 9th. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Last Sunday to sign up is **February 26th.**

Please pay Jeanette Wriedt by cash or checks made to Bethlehem Ladies.

## **2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

**Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family**

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

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

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

Pastor – Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)



### **Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

#### **Joys:**

#### **Families who have lost loved ones:**

Dale Spindler (Father of Dawn Wirtz; Brother of Darlean Rumpff)

#### **Those struggling with health issues:**

Bob Radder

Finn

Doreen Schmidt

Tom Lefeber

Jessica Horneck

Dawson Horneck

John Buchholz (Marie's brother)

Daisy Sippel

Darlene Horneck

Helen Henning

Hattie Lucille

Sandra Tesch

Gary Steinhardt

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

#### **Other Concerns:**

- Victims of violence
- Victims of recent natural disasters, especially victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
- Please affected by war and/or oppression (Esp. Ukraine)

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- There are flyers on the bulletin board regarding a grief support group at Holy Family in Manitowoc, Cancer support groups, and sessions for those interested in foster parenting.
- Sat. March 4 – Brat Fry and Cornhole Tournament – 11a-4pm – Laack's Hall, Johnsonville – sponsored by Saron UCC

- Saturday, March 4 – 4p-10p. InCourage (domestic abuse shelter) Domestic Chef Charity Event – Held at The Venue at Union Square, Manitowoc. Compete or just partake – See bulletin board for more details!
- Pancake Breakfast – Sunday 3/12 – 9a-noon - Holy Trinity Parish, School Hill
- Saturday, 3/17 – Woman’s Day program 9am – Zion Lutheran Church, New Holstein.
- Upcoming Class  
Do you have a fear of falling or losing your balance? The Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore, along with Bethlehem UCC Church is offering Stepping On, a 7 week workshop, beginning Thursdays, April 13<sup>th</sup>-May 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm. Trained leaders and community professionals guide you in recognizing your risk of falling by identifying fall hazards in the home and community, help you build the balance, strength and practical skills you need to avoid a fall, how to safely get up from a fall, identify vision, footwear and medication management risks, and how to manage safely in inclement weather. The cost is a suggested \$10 donation. Please contact the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore at 1-877-416-7083 for more information or to register.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT LAKELAND UNIVERSITY - see flyers on bulletin board for more info.**

2/25 - "Essence of Heritage" - a student-led event paying homage to Black History - 7pm - Bradley Fine Arts Bldg.

3/26 - Bus trip to Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center- Leaving Lakeland at 8am

**Disaster relief:**

You can make a donation to the International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response”. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. You can mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note “Turkey and Syria” on your check in the memo section. You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 2/19:** 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30a Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Worship; Consistory Mtg. following worship; ~Happy Birthday Emilee Wirtz! Happy Anniversary Tony & Pam Bowe!

**Monday 2/20:** ~Happy Birthday Dawn Muehlbauer and Jesse Rumpff!

**Tuesday 2/21:**

**Wednesday 2/22:** 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Communion ~Happy Birthday Trenton Rabe!!

**Thursday 2/23:**

**Friday 2/24:** ~Happy Birthday Amelia Horneck!

**Saturday 2/25:** ~Happy Birthday Julia Gabrielse!

**Sunday 2/26:** 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30a WISE TEAM; 9:30am Worship;

**February Pantry Items:**

**Box of sandwich bags, foil, plastic wrap or garbage bags**