



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, January 15, 2023

Leader: Pastor 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: #107 (first verse) "Joy to the World"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

O Lord, open our lips,

And our mouths shall declare your praise.

O Lord, open our eyes,

So that we may behold your presence.

O Lord, open our ears,

So that we may hear your call to follow.

O Lord, open our hearts,

So that we may offer you worship in love and joy.

***OPENING PRAYER:**

God, our Creator and Redeemer, your faithfulness endures forever.

You offer us new life in Christ Jesus and call us to follow him. You

challenge us to bring life and hope to the world you love. In you we find strength and courage to face every challenge, until the day of our Lord

Jesus Christ arrives. And so we offer our praise and gratitude to you, O God, with Christ and the Spirit, one God, now and always. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come! 231

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise
forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (1947-)
MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893)

FESTAL SONG
S.M.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Faithful God,

you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost

yet it's hard to recognize we have lost our way.

We seek the next new thing instead of your gift of new life.

We follow the trends of our culture rather than Jesus' example.

Wash over us with your cleansing Spirit,

and renew our commitment to follow your purposes revealed in Christ Jesus.

(Time for silent reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Let us rejoice, for God has put a new song in our mouths! Trust in God's enduring love and mercy, washing over us every day. Know that forgiveness is yours through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Praise God! Amen!**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 121 (refrain) "Gloria"
Glor - - -ri-a in excelsis Deo, Glor - - -ri-a in excelsis De - o.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 40:1-11

(p. 621 of hymnal – Pastor reads odd verses, people read even- everyone on verse 11)

John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

SERMON

*HYMN #541

"Here I am, Lord"

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle change will go to the Mission Committee)

*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**

Gracious God, we offer you our gifts with humble hearts. Each gift seems small on its own, so bless each one and those of your people throughout the Church. Through the work of your Holy Spirit, surprise us with all that our gifts can accomplish, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...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.

***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.***

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING
POSTLUDE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

February 1, 2023 – Bethlehem Chili Supper

This will be an all-church event with proceeds divided between the organizations allowing each to decide how to use for their projects. The supper will be: Drive thru/pick up only

Your help will be needed. Please confirm your availability by email to kayerad@hotmail.com or use the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, January 29, 2023 - 10:30 – 12 noon Prep day: Set up work areas, cook meat etc.

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 - 8:00 – 12:00 cook noodles

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 - Bring Tortes 8:00 – 12 noon Cook Chili, serve noon lunches 3:00 – 6:30 pm Serve Chili, Dishes, Clean up

*Confirmation Class on Jan. 18 will be held at Bethel UCC from 6-8pm in conjunction with Immanuel UCC and Our Shepherds UCC. The goal is encourage interaction among the youth.

*The annual meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 29 following a brief worship.

WISE Initiative for Awareness of Mental Health Concerns

Pastor Randy is forming a study group to determine if Bethlehem might be interested in the WISE Initiative (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged). This initiative aims to seek ways in which congregations can support and advocate for individuals affected by mental illness, brain injuries, etc. The group would meet on selected Sunday mornings before church in January and February. We will study the issue of mental health, perhaps through a book study or guest speakers. Next, we would determine if we are willing to commit to a WISE "designation" and develop a covenant explaining how we will support people with mental health concerns. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall if you are interested in participating in this exploratory study group.

The Endowment Fund Committee

The Bethlehem Endowment Fund Committee has met two times this year. While using only the interest, we have made donations this year to the following local communities and individuals.

- ❖ Kiel Food Pantry
- ❖ Salvation Army
- ❖ 2 families in need

When you are reviewing your financial plan, please consider giving toward The Bethlehem Endowment Fund. Anyone is welcome to join the committee. There is something wonderfully fulfilling about doing good that lasts. Something that really makes a difference. Your gifts to the Endowment Fund are rewarding and adds to a fund that will benefit others for decades.

If you have any suggestions of an organization or a family in need, see any committee member for more details. Kerry Henning, Kathy Bowe or Marie Mueller.

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@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

Pastor – Randy Kopenhagen (920)286-2531 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	Daisy Sippel
Finn (a young boy with cancer)	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dana (friend of Melissa K)	Dawson Horneck
John Buchholz (Marie's brother)	Gary Steinhardt

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 1/15: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Birthday Judy Mueller and Bill Biwan!

Monday 1/16:

Tuesday 1/17:

Wednesday 1/18: 6pm Confirmation Class held at Bethel UCC, Ada; **Spirit News due**

Thursday 1/19: ~Happy Birthday Hailey Wirtz!!

Friday 1/20:

Saturday 1/21: ~Happy Birthday Katrina Rumpff!!

Sunday 1/22: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship followed by fellowship hour

January Pantry Items: Can of Soup