

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



Sunday, January 16, 2022

Worship Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers

Organist: Polly Jeanty

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

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
- 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**

God is with his people.

He dwells in their midst.

Listen and hear him speak.

Our hearts long for his word.

We wait upon the Lord

so that we may renew our strength.

God is our help and our support.

His spirit moves among us

to lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

With joyful hearts we sing God's praise.

With rejoicing we call upon Him.

The Lord is our hope and our salvation.

*~ posted on the **Kir-shalom** website. <http://www.spirit-net.ca/sermons/b-or02sm.php>*

*** OPENING PRAYER**

Strengthen me by your word. May the words of the Psalmist be true of me, "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope" (Psalm 130:5). Help me to remain faithful in this place of waiting. Help me to serve you and live for you even in this crossroad of my life. AMEN

*OPENING HYMN *“Spirit of God...”* #228 verses 1 and 2

READING OF SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 40:25-31

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? Says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

SERMON “Hope Series Part 3: “Anything Worth Having is Worth Waiting For”

HYMN *“On Eagle’s Wings”* #385 verses 1 and 2

CALL TO THE OFFERING

We sing our praises to the Lord, for God is good and worthy! We give our whole selves — our talents and material possessions — to the Church with the expectation that they be used to further God’s dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you’re able. As a church we promise to use these gifts for good. We promise to use them in love and mercy for others. Amen.

*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

**God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives
we offer these gifts to you.**

**Through your blessing and our willingness to share,
may these offerings become a source for hope and love
in this church family, and in the community beyond us,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(St Martins Presbyterian Church, Christchurch)

A CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Walter H. Henegar, Pastor of Atlanta Westside PCA

(Responsive phrase – “Lord in your mercy”, “**hear our prayer**”)

Almighty God,

Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend,

You who sit enthroned over the flood—

We are staggering in the surf of breakers

bringing bad news, and worse news,

while an invisible menace laps at our doorstep.

Father of all mercies, have mercy on us.

We are anxious, exhausted, angry, and sad.

We need your peace that surpasses understanding

to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Be our refuge and strength;

be our very present help in this time of trouble.

Even in this trouble we thank you:

for green Spring life that refuses to wait for death’s shadow to pass;

for technology that unites exiles and draws the solitary near;

for your church that prevails in catacombs and quarantine;

for your own Holy Spirit who is socially present with us, always.

But Oh, forgive us, Holy Lord:

for hating our unwashed neighbors in our heart;

for opening our hearts to unfettered fear;

for closing our hearts, and our pockets, to any in need;

for loosening our grip on your precious and very great promises.

Assure us, our Gracious Redeemer:

that our sins are nailed to the cross of Jesus;

that we are clothed in the righteous white robes of Christ;

that you will never leave us nor forsake us;

that nothing – nothing – can separate us from your love.

Great Physician, we pray for those most vulnerable to this virus:

for the elderly, the weak, and those with chronic conditions;

for the poor, the hungry, and the isolated;

for those already infected.

Deliver them from this evil,

and prevent the rest of us from carrying it to them.

God of Hosts, we pray for the caregivers on the front lines:

for doctors and nurses and healthcare workers;

for police and firefighters and government officials;

for parents in the home and under-shepherds in the church:

Guard and guide them; shield and sustain them.

Rock of Ages, we pray for the newly unstable:

for those who have lost jobs, lost businesses, lost savings, lost homes;

for those facing the likelihood of losing even more—

Hide them in the cool shadow of your wings;

provide every good thing for them

that you, as a good Father, know they need.

Indwelling Spirit, empower your people to serve:
to get wisdom, and live by it, and share it freely;
to embody peace amid the strife of tongues;
to present our bodies as living sacrifices;
to suffer with Christ in patient endurance.
Give us all fresh confidence that there is:
no future where you are not present,
no sorrow where you are not near,
no tears not kept in your bottle,
no locust-eaten years you will not restore.
And so we trust you, our generous Provider:
if the curve does not flatten,
if the market does not pull up,
if the shelves go empty,
and if all our accounts drain to pennies—
Even still, let us rejoice in the Lord, our strength;
let us take joy in the God of our salvation.
In the name of Jesus we ask, Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION - Commissioning and Blessing (based on Psalm 130)

Wait for the LORD,

I wait with deep longing;

and in his word I stand, waiting in hope.

Hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with the LORD is great power to save.

Go into the world with assurance, hope and promise:

the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon you – and even unsettle you;

the love of God, creator and giver of life, embrace you – and even confront you;

and the presence of the Holy Spirit encourage you – and surprise you,

this day and all your days. **Amen**

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Posted on **The Billabong** website. <http://thebillabong.info/>

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



January Jingle Change will be given to the Kopenhagen family. There are also opportunities to share your love, well wishes and prayers through the 'Prayer Chain'. Please stop in the fellowship hall or ask a consistory member for details.

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

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Birth of Raegan Michael Hoeffner- daughter of Tyler & Tia Hoeffner – Grandparents Joe and Doreen Schmidt

Families who have lost loved ones:

Macullen Schnell

Skylar Rose Beattie

Those struggling with health issues:

Kenzie Koppenhaver

Dale and Darlene Horneck

Brenna Koppenhaver

Hattie Lucille

Louie Bowe

Warren Fidlin

Jane Markelz

Elizabeth Loose

Steve Rumpff

Mother of Dawn Wirtz

Everett Henning

Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)

Helen Henning

Olivia Marie

Dale & Darlene Horneck

Jessica Horneck

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Leah Henning – Deployed to Japan

Other concerns:

Lucas Family of Spring Lake area - Housefire



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bethlehem UCC's Annual Meeting is next Sunday, January 23rd following the 9:30am Worship. Please be sure to grab your annual report from your church mailbox this morning. Those left will be mailed (or emailed) January 18. We hope to see you at the meeting!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance:

Join Lakeland University for a service of reflection celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message of belonging, inclusion and justice in a time of COVID, featuring Ms. Shaunielle McDonald. This service will be held Monday, January 17th at 4:30 p.m. via ZOOM using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8448111790>

February 2, 2022 – Bethlehem Chili Supper

*Plans have been made to carry on the annual Chili supper with some big changes: This will be an all church event with proceeds divided between the organizations allowing each to decide how to use for their projects. And The supper will be: Drive thru/pick up only
Your help will be needed.*

Sunday, January 30, 2022 10:30 – 12 noon Prep day: Set up work areas, cook meat etc.

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:00 – 12:00 cook noodles

*Wednesday, February 2, 2022 Bring Tortes 8:00 – 12 noon Cook Chili, serve noon lunches
3:00 – 6:30 pm Serve Chili, Dishes, Clean up*

Visiting has resumed....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.

• Can you help shovel snow? Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for the month you can help keep the church sidewalks cleared.

Leah Henning has been deployed to Japan. Send cards and letters to: (standard US postage rates) Sgt. Leah Henning
31st MEU CE S-3
Unit 35621
FPO, AP 96385-5621

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 1/16: 8am Sunday School; 8:30am Bethlehem Ladies mtg; 9:30am Worship

Monday 1/17: *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

Tuesday 1/18:

Wednesday 1/19: 5pm February Spirit News due; 6pm Confirmation class; *Happy Birthday Hailey Wirtz!*

Thursday 1/20:

Friday 1/21: *Happy Birthday Katrina Rumpff!*

Saturday 1/22:

Sunday 1/23: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; **ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP;** *Please bring your annual report with you.*

Pantry item: Can of Soup

January Jingle Change supports the Koppenhaver Family