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Sunday, January 2, 2022

Worship Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers

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
- 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

*GOD OF HOPE CALL TO WORSHIP

God of Hope,
we come into your presence this morning
with confidence that you will meet us here.

Where there is sadness, bring joy;

Where there is tiredness, bring refreshment;

Where there is despair, bring a renewed sense of hope.

Let this place be a sanctuary,
a safe haven for us,

a home for holy words and songs and prayers

as we devote ourselves to you.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

*** OPENING PRAYER FOR HOPE**

Heavenly Father, we are your humble servants, we come before you today in need of hope. There are times when we feel helpless. There are times when we feel weak. We pray for hope. We need hope for a better future. We need hope for a better life. We need hope for love and kindness. Some say that the sky is at it's darkest just before the dawn. We pray that this is true, for there is much darkness now. We need your light, Lord, in every way. We pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory. To know that all is right in the world, as you have planned, and as you want it to be. Help us to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory. In your name, we pray, Amen.

**OPENING HYMN all hymns today will be chosen by the congregation. We will sing the first 2 verses.*

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Ruth 1:1-9a, 16-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. But Ruth said,

'Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—

there will I be buried.
May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!
When Naomi saw that she was
determined to go with her, she said
no more to her.

HYMN

SERMON "Hope Series Part 1: 'Future Hope'"

HYMN

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Jesus draws us from the margins into a great feast; he draws us out of a crowd, to healing; he draws us from death to new life. Each day, God finds the way that we need to be loved and challenged, and then calls us to minister to others in warm hospitality, healing mercies, and the promise of resurrection and new life. We respond to this marvelous call through our giving this day.

*RESPONSE

"Gloria"

Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Gloria, in excelsis Deo

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious and holy God,
accept what we offer today:
our cheques and cash, our faltering steps,
our brokenness, our leftovers,
our hope, our risking, our lives.
Bless and transform all that we offer
and all that we hold back,
that new life may be ours,
to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. Amen**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(w/ gluten-free bread and juice. If you desire a prepared chalice and wafer kit, please let an usher know)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the table of the Lord,
we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.

Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.
Come, old and young,

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

I pray that this holy Communion, far from condemning me to punishment, will plead effectively for my pardon. Let it be the armor of my faith and the shield of my good will. Let it purify me from my bad habits and put an end to my evil desires. Let it increase my charity and patience, humility and obedience, and all the virtues. Let it defend me against the traps of all my enemies, visible and invisible. Let it calm the passions of my body and spirit. Let it join me firmly to you, the one true God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with you.

And I pray that you will lead me, sinful as I am, to the banquet where you, with your Son and Holy Spirit, are to your saints true light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy, complete gladness, and perfect happiness.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER.. LORD'S PRAYER

Thank you Lord that you are an impossibility specialist;
you bring life out of death and hope from hopeless situation
healing and recovery when needed.

We are a hopeful people!

Bring hope to all among us who are grieving;
your solace that we will see our loved ones again,
your comfort that you will be with us in the hour of our death.

We are a hopeful people!

Bring hope to all among us who are despairing,
give us light and meaning in our times of suffering,
and your energy when life is at its lowest ebb.

We are a hopeful people!

Bring hope to all among us who are ill in mind or body,
a healing touch to calm our fears,
your soothing presence to carry us when we falter.

We are a hopeful people!

Bring hope to all who are locked away in jails,
as well as those among us chained by addictions
and every prison of prejudice.

We are a hopeful people!

Bring hope to our community and town;
the stranger welcomed, the hungry fed,
your kingdom coming here in Kiel, WI and surrounding regions.

We are a hopeful people!

Thank you for showing us who we are
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
and for transforming us daily through your creative Spirit.

**We are a hopeful people
and "Alleluia" is our song!
Thanks be to God! 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.

CLOSING HYMN

A HOPEFUL BENEDICTION

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

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
Tim Nohl

Those struggling with health issues:

Kenzie Koppenhaver	Dale and Darlene Horneck
Brenna Koppenhaver	Hattie Lucille
Elizabeth Loose	Warren Fidlin
Louie Bowe	Mother of Dawn Wirtz
Jane Markelz	Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)
Steve Rumpff	Olivia Marie
Everett Henning	Jessica Horneck
Helen Henning	

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer, Leah Henning – Deployed to Japan

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

JANUARY'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING SUPPORTS MISSION COMMITTEE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our homebound members! - Unfortunately, Field of Dreams is on quarantine for the rest of 2021. We'll let you know when visits can resume.

- 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 1/2: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL; 9:30a Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Jayden Jeanty and Girlie Westphalen! ** Annual reports due***

Monday 1/3: *Happy Birthday Carol Wehrmann!!*

Tuesday 1/4:

Wednesday 1/5: 6pm Confirmation; *Happy Birthday Garrett Schultz!*

Thursday 1/6:

Friday 1/7: *Happy Birthday Ty Sheets!*

Saturday 1/8: *Happy Birthday Tammy Westphalen!*

Sunday 1/9: 8am Sunday School; 9:30a Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Pat Hoban, Jane Umland, and Mary-Beth Molitor! **pizza orders due***

Pantry item: Can of Soup