



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, July 9, 2023

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

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 #556 "Surely the Presence..."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.

God offers compassion to all creation.

With all God's creation, give thanks to the Lord.

With all God's creatures, great and small, we will bless the Lord.

In worship let us speak of God's glory and tell of God's wonder.

We come to praise God and seek God's peace in Jesus' name.

***OPENING PRAYER**

You, O God, are overflowing with love, infinite in kindness, and incomparable in glory. There is no other like you in all our imagining. Your presence breaks into our lives in the beauty of summer and refreshes us like a gentle breeze breath on a still day. You renew us to meet life's changes and challenges. In this time of worship, we offer thanks in our prayers, praise from our hearts, and honor with our lives, to you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, this day and every day, now and always. Amen.

*HYMN #35 all

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wise and patient God, You offer us peace, yet we confess life often feels frustrating and unsettled. You offer us courage, yet we are resentful when life is challenging. You offer us a mission with meaning and purpose, but we are preoccupied with our own plans and desires. Forgive us, O God, and draw our attention back to you.

Time of reflection...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said, Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Trust that peace and forgiveness are God’s gifts to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558

“Gloria Patri”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,

leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,

gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

‘Arise, my love, my fair one,

and come away;

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

**¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,**

¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

**¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

*HYMN #394 all

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER... THE LORD’S PRAYER

Petitions end with:

“Bring peace and hope, we pray, **And let your kingdom come.**”

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle Change for the month of July supports the Bethlehem Ladies and their Christmas Mission Project)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #438 v. 1** “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, receive our gifts as tokens of our gratitude for your goodness to us. Bless them so that they become seeds of generosity, bringing needed gifts to others in Jesus’ name. 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**

O God of Rejuvenation, may we leave this place feeling alive, awake, and made for this day. In you there is hope for satisfaction, while our hunger for justice remains everlasting. May we find strength in gentleness and relief to heavy loads. And may we carry your promise of refuge with us wherever we go. Amen. (ucc.org)

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pastor Randy will be in MN at a family reunion and unavailable from July 10-16. Please contact Rev. Nicole Herda if you require pastoral care.(920-242-8308)

MISSION PROJECT:

In many parts of the world, women and girls live in period poverty – lacking access to necessary feminine care supplies. During the menstrual cycle, these hygiene materials are especially important to healthy practices. Not having supplies like sanitary napkins, tampons, soap and disposable plastic bags can create challenges that lead to unsafe and unsanitary conditions. During the months of June, July, and August our Bethlehem family will be collecting menstrual hygiene supplies and will then assemble these kits as part of our Mission Fest Sunday. Supplies can be brought to church during these months. See the flyer at church for the list of needed supplies.

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

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 Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Scott Hartenberger Rose Wedero

Those struggling with health issues:

Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Darlean Rumpff	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
Crystal (Friend of Randy/Melissa)	Brenda Voland

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Community Announcements

Ice Cream Social Supper – Wed. July 12 – 4pm-6:30pm – Ebenezer UCC, Chilton –
Preorder and Carryout only – see flyer for details

POLKA and Potluck! - Sunday, Aug. 20 – 2pm. Sponsored by St. Marks/St. James –
see flyer and signup sheet in fellowship hall.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 7/9: 9:30am Worship

Monday 7/10:

Tuesday 7/11: *~Happy Birthday Brad Hoban!*

Wednesday 7/12:

Thursday 7/13:

Friday 7/14: ~

Saturday 7/15: *~Happy Birthday Dan Wempner! Happy Anniversary Chad & Sara Jeanty!*

Sunday 7/16: 9:30am Worship w/ Missionary Guests

**July Pantry Items:
School Supplies**