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**Sunday, June 13, 2021**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Polly Jeanty**

### **Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines**

- Everyone 5 years and older will wear a mask (even if you are fully vaccinated)
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- Ushers will guide you to your seat
- The congregation will refrain from singing (Humming is permitted)
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- 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

One: It is good to give God thanks, to sing praises to the Most High!

**All: We will sing for joy to God who has made us glad.**

One: Let us declare God's steadfast love in the morning,

**All: and God's faithfulness by night.**

One: So come to worship God with thankful, joyful hearts!

**All: Let us praise God's holy name together.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Living God,  
from you comes vitality, love and joy.  
Your peace is our companion, your love is our strength, your Son is our hope.  
In even our darkest moments, your presence brings comfort.  
Hidden deep in the soil of life,  
your Spirit nurtures tiny seeds of purpose and potential  
to surprise us with new life.  
Like the earth beginning to bloom around us,  
so your kingdom unfolds to surprise us with new possibilities.  
We bring you our prayers and praise this day,  
trusting that your Spirit will bring us the gifts we need  
to serve you in faithfulness,  
renewed by your love, through Christ our Lord.**

**SONG #405**

**“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” (no singing, please)**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Living, loving God,  
as we watch growth in our gardens and in the children around us,  
we confess we often resist growth and change as we grow older.  
We form ideas and opinions about many things—and cling to them.  
We think we already know what you desire from us  
and fear new insights and new directions.  
Forgive us for thinking we already know it all.  
Forgive us for blocking out the concerns and commitments  
of those who differ with us.  
Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to signs of new life.  
Grant us faith like the mustard seed,  
so small and insignificant on its own,  
yet able to grow with your blessing to become a mighty sign  
of your lively kingdom among us. Amen.  
(Silent reflection)**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ—and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace! Amen!**

\*RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri” (no singing, please)

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

### **Psalm 92; 1-4, 12-15**

<sup>1</sup>It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

<sup>3</sup>to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup>For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

<sup>12</sup>The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

<sup>14</sup>In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

<sup>15</sup>showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

### **Mark 4:26-34**

<sup>26</sup>He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## SERMON

SONG #495                      “We are One in the Spirit” (no singing, please)

## PASTORAL PRAYER... THE LORD’S PRAYER

One: Come in your wisdom and plant seeds of your kingdom.

**All: Watch over tender new life unfolding and bring it to maturity.**

**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.**

## COMMISSIONING

One: No longer afraid, we go forth with joy!

**All: The love of God will motivate and direct us.**

One: Filled with hope, we go forth with praise on our lips!

**All: The example of Jesus Christ will show us the way.**

One: Held in the love of God, we go forth to bring change for good!

**All: We will be inspired to work with God’s Holy Spirit.**

## POSTLUDE

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

**Joys:** Returning to church!

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

Carol Meiselwitz

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

Mother of Dawn Wirtz  
Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)  
Mike Mathes

Tom Brickbauer  
Macullen Schnell  
Jane Markelz

Dale Horneck  
Olivia Marie  
Father of Alicia Braun (former member)

Jessica Horneck

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

**Other concerns:**

Division in the U.S.

Racial Justice and equality in our country

Health Care workers

Those whose businesses are struggling

Those who are out of work

People who live where violence and injustice prevails.

## 2021 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@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)

## JUNE'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING SUPPORTS THE UCC'S "STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH" OFFERING:

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

## **BETHLEHEM ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Plan a visit to our homebound members!** Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer are at Field of Dreams in Kiel (286-6189) Call to arrange a visit.

### **2021 BUCC Graduates**

Ryan Freund	Kiel High School (attending UW-Platteville)
Ryan Jeanty	Kiel High School (attending UW-Platteville)
Brenna Koppenhaver	Kiel High School (attending Edgewood College)
Mason Lewis	Kiel High School (attending UW Oshkosh)
Jacob Vogel	Kiel High School (attending N.E. Technical College)
Noah Watson	Kiel High School (attending UW Stevens Point)
Kate Wilharms	Kiel High School (plans unknown)

Julia Gabrielse graduated in December from UW-Stout with a Bachelor's degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management. She earned minors in Communications and Business Management.

Steve Deignan's niece, Lexie graduated from Metropolitan State University of Denver with a Masters Degree in Social Work. She is a 2017 graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Development and Family Studies.

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 6/13:** 9:30a In-person worship; *Happy Birthday Julie Mueller and Kate Wilharms!*

**Monday 6/14:** *Happy Anniversary Will & Lora Mathes!*

**Tuesday 6/15:** *Happy Birthday Kevin Volland!*

**Wednesday 6/16:** *Happy Birthday Zoe Watson!*

**Thursday 6/17:** *Happy Anniversary Jason & Jennifer Brockway!*

**Friday 6/18:** *Happy Birthday Mike Brockway !*

**Saturday 6/19:** *Happy Anniversary Ryan & Sarah Arnold!*

**Sunday 6/20:** 9:30a In-person worship *Happy Birthday Maria Hoban, Bonnie Zorn, and Eric Muehlbauer!*

**Pantry item: Tube of Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant or Lotion**