



**BETHLEHEM UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, June 18, 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**

One: We come together because we love God;

**All: we love God, because God is there for us all the time.**

One: God is there for us when we prayerfully reach out;

**All: God is there for us when trouble hits unexpectedly.**

One: It is not only these gathered people whom God loves;

God embraces the poor, the powerless, and the rejected;

**All: and God is there for us when our confidence crumbles,  
and when it seems that the whole world is against us.**

One: Why God should care for us is beyond our understanding;

**All: but God's gracious love has held us fast in the community of the faithful,  
and will endure from age to age.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

One: O God, Wonderful Creator, we call you "Friend."

**All: Like a good friend, you give your abundant gifts freely, and ask only  
loyalty in return.**

One: O God, founder of the faith community, we call you "Friend."

**All: Like a trusted friend, you listen carefully to your people, and support them in testing times.**

One: O God, inspiration of the faith community, we call you "Friend."

**All: Like a challenging friend, you encourage your people, and send them out to serve the powerless and needy ones.**

One: O God, you graced us with Jesus your Chosen One; we call you "Friend."

**All: Like a faithful friend, Jesus came among us to bring acceptance, healing, and peace.**

**Thank you, Eternal Friend. Amen.**

\*HYMN #408 all

"What a Friend we Have in Jesus"

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: "Is anything too wonderful for God?"

**All: That we might use the talents we have kept hidden, and encourage the talents of others.**

One: "Is there anything too wonderful for God?"

**All: That we might affect the long sought reconciliation, and face the deepest fear.**

One: "Is there anything too wonderful for God?"

**All: That our faith community might break from the groove of past practice, and engage in creative new ventures.**

One: "Is there anything too wonderful for God?"

**All: That we might accept a faithful pattern of discipleship; confronting the greedy, and inspiring the dispirited, in the Jesus way.**

*Time of reflection...*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: You will surprise yourselves by what you can achieve in God's strength!

**All: We are ready to trust God to strengthen us, and to lead us into new and faithful ventures.**

One: Your past failures you can leave in the past; you will begin a new chapter with the peace of God for you, and with you.

**All: Our discipleship will be breaking fresh ground. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558

"Gloria Patri"

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Genesis 18:1-15**

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

### **Matthew 9.35-10.23**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come

upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

## MESSAGE

\*HYMN #314

“Jesus Call Us O’er the Tumult”

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER... 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.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle Change for the month of June supports the **Strengthen The Church**. *“The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.”* -ucc.org. There are also envelopes for this special offering on the music stand where you picked up your bulletin.)

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

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: These gifts will be blessed, as they are used to do God’s work.

**All: Children will sing joyfully of God’s creation,  
those of advanced years will laugh and reminisce,  
young moms and dads will get together,  
and the addicted and lonely will find a place to share.**

One: The bible will be opened to the curious,  
and the tuneful will raise the roof with their singing.

**All: God's "work," will not seem like work at all.  
Thanks be to God! 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

One: We go from here a hopeful people, for God goes with us.

**All: In times of trouble, God will support us;  
in times of weakness, God will be our strength;  
in times of doubt, God will give us direction;  
in times of loneliness, God will touch us with the friendship of others;  
in times when we lack confidence, God will show us our worth;  
in times of sadness, God will embrace us with love.**

One: Nothing can dash your hopes!

**All: In the power and the love of God, Amen.**

POSTLUDE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 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. Now you can help women and girls around the world living in period poverty. The CWS (Church World Services) Period Pack gives women and girls the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy and live with dignity during the menstrual cycle.

During the months of May, June, July, August and September 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 Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)

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

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Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)



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

#### **Joys:**

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

Madison Kerber

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

Heidi Konen	John Buchholz
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)	

#### **Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

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

**Today Sunday 6/18:** 9:30am Worship; ~ *Happy Birthday Mike Brockway! Happy Father's Day! HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!*

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

**Tuesday 6/20:** ~*Happy Birthday Bonnie Zorn, Maria Hoban, Eric Muehlbauer!!*

**Wednesday 6/21:**

**Thursday 6/22:**

**Friday 6/23:** ~*Happy Anniversary Lee & Nicole Watson!!*

**Saturday 6/24:**

**Sunday 6/25:** 9:30am Worship; ~ *Happy Birthday Trent Hanson and Marissa Molitor!*

#### **June Pantry Items:**

**Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant or Lotion**