



Trinity Sunday

**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Sunday, June 4, 2023

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn

Organist: Polly Jeanty

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 (from the Presbyterian Church of Canada)

Holy are you, Source and Creator of all things;

We praise you for your gift of life.

Holy are you, Son and Redeemer of all things;

We thank you for your gift of new life.

Holy are you, Spirit and Sustainer of all things;

We bear witness to your truth and worship your holy name,

Ever Three and Ever One.

*OPENING PRAYER (from the Presbyterian Church of Canada)

Holy God, you are Three in One and One in Three. Praise to you, Source of life, maker of Heaven and Earth, who created us in your image and called us good. Praise to you, Jesus Christ, born in our flesh to teach us how to love and offer us grace and mercy. Praise to you, Holy Spirit, for the energy you bring us to greet each day as a gift. Holy God, Three in One and One in Three, we praise you for your mystery and mercy. Reveal to us how to live as your people and witness to your wonder and grace. Amen

*OPENING HYMN #243 all "Holy, Holy Holy"

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (ucc.org)

Loving God, often in our quest to do the work that we are called to do, we miss the mark. At times we doubt even as we worship. Sometimes in the same day that we offer gratitude for answered prayers and blessings received, we think thoughts of apprehension and utter words of uncertainty concerning those same blessings. Occasionally we forget that the peace, love, hope, and joy of the Divine extends beyond the walls of our churches and the hearts of those who identify as Christians. Frequently we forget how the Divine and Jesus have moved in our own lives. Help us to push through our doubt. Help us to move past our selfishness and fear of "other people." Help us to truly love our neighbors as ourselves—all of our neighbors. Please change our hearts and minds, God. Please help us to muster the bravery to put into practice the light and love of Jesus. Help us to love boldly without hesitation. All humans are worthy of experiencing the Love of Christ. Please show us how to love all. We confess that we get it wrong all the time and we pray that you help us to do better. (time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (ucc.org)

Assuredly God forgives us of all of our wrongdoings— those committed consciously and unconsciously.

Thank you, God for your forgiveness. Let us forgive others as God continuously forgives us. May we work to do better starting now. Amen

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558 "Gloria Patri"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.' Jesus spoke up and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'speak.' 'A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?' Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have

judged rightly.' Then turning towards the woman, he said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' And he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SERMON "Breaking Binaries" Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn

*HYMN #532 all "Come Share the Lord"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(God's table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

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.)

One: God has blessed us beyond measure and our own generosity is an opportunity to use a portion of our blessings to minister to others. As Jesus gathered the eleven and sent them into the world to share their witness and wisdom— Christ is calling us to gather our gifts and offer them to God in worship. Let us gather our gifts and worship through our generosity.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ucc.org)

We offer these gifts to the God of all people. We cheerfully give our treasure to bring love, peace, hope, joy, justice, and healing to those who are hurting. May these gifts be blessed and used to provide ministry for those who are too often forgotten in our society. Let the generosity represented here be magnified and amplified to stretch beyond our mortal thought and imagination.

*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 BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- All Items for the Undy 500 must be at church by noon on May 31. They will be delivered to Milwaukee on June 1. Thank you for supporting this important mission.
- The Bethlehem Merry Christians made a special donation to Heifer International who has been approached by another institution with an offer to multiply by 10 times whatever donations are made to Heifer before June 1st.
The Merry Christians annually support Heifer International with a Christmas appeal to our congregation. The short notice made it difficult to do that in this case. So the Bethlehem Merry Christians is sending a check to Heifer for \$1,000.00 along with a private check from one of our members for another \$1,000.00 for this very important drive to assist in getting poor people around the world to become self-sufficient. The multiplying factor of times ten will be given credit for the gift of \$20,000.00 altogether.
Research was also done to check with Heifer to assure this was not a scam. Thank you to the Bethlehem congregation for your support in our endeavor.
- We are in need of delegates to attend the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake from June 9-11. You can attend only part of the weekend if that works better. Please let Pastor Randy if you are interested in attending.

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@gmail.com

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

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Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 6/4: 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Brooke Muelhlbauer!*

Monday 6/5:

Tuesday 6/6: *~Happy Birthday Gene Radder and Keatyn Sutton! Happy Anniversary Jesse & Jenna Rumpff!*

Wednesday 6/7:

Thursday 6/8: ; *~Happy Birthday Ginny Schultz!*

Friday 6/9: Wisc. Conference Annual Mtg. - Green Lake

Saturday 6/10: Wisc. Conference Annual Mtg. - Green Lake

Sunday 6/11: 9:30am Worship; *Happy Birthday Melissa Koppenhaver;* Wisc. Conference Annual Mtg. - Green Lake

June Pantry Items:

Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant or Lotion



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Robert Suttner

Those struggling with health issues:

Scott Umland	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

Congrats to our 2023 Graduates

Dylan Jeanty, Kiel High School - Attending Fox Valley Technical College in the fall to study Wood Manufacturing Technology

Kenzie Koppenhaver, Kiel High School - Attending Edgewood College in Madison in the fall to study music production. She will also be a member of the women's soccer team.

Trevor Muehlbauer, Kiel High School - Working at Drexel Building Supply

Laura Mueller, UW-Green Bay - Majored in Communications

Zoe Watson, Kiel High School - Attending UW Oshkosh in Oshkosh, WI in the fall to study nursing. She will also be competing on the women's cross-country and track teams.

HOMEWORK: This week, as you go about your daily life, notice the triune Divine One, and give thanks. You might try this prayer at the beginning or end of each day.

Holy One, Blessed Three - I'm grateful for all that you have created in my life, in my church community and in the world. Today, I'm especially grateful for the creation of _____. I'm grateful for the salvation that comes in your name, for your willingness to save us all from that which burdens us. Today, I'm especially grateful to be saved from _____. I'm grateful, too, for all the ways you nurture and guide me. Today, I'm especially grateful to be guided in the direction of _____.

After you speak, listen. Do you hear the blessing? Do you hear how God has called all that is created "good?" Ask yourself how the three parts of the trinity speak to you and each other. (from UCC.org)