



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, March 12, 2023

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. David Kohls

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**

God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

We come before you weary from traveling through barren lands.

Holy One, you give water that sustains body and spirit.

You hydrate us when we need, how we need.

Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack and bring forth water.

Crack our hearts open and let your love flow from them like a spring.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #198 vs.1-4 "Come, Ye Thankful, Raise the Strain"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Psalms 95 – Hymnal p. 676 - Leader reads odd verses, people read even verses,

Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is

deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

SERMON

"Where Might You Find Jesus?"

*HYMN #437

"He Leadeth Me"

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE... 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 March goes towards Bethlehem's OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) pledge)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Doxology" (Written by GW Dub Shepherd, 2006)

**Praise God throughout these forty days,
Praise Christ, Our Lord, whom God did raise,
And praise the Spirit who imparts,
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Lord our God, you are the creator of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all those you have made, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.***

BENEDICTION

God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pastor Randy and his family are out of the state until March 14. Should you need emergency pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Nicole Herda of St. Peters UCC, Kiel. Her phone # is (920)242-8308.
- Rural Church Fellowship is planning a youth game night for students 7th-12th grade. It will be held at Our Shepherd's UCC in Howards Grove on Sunday, March 19 from 5p-7p. Pizza will be served. FREE!! Let Randy know if you will be attending and if you need a ride on the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. Bring a friend!
- During the season of Lent, Prayer Stations will be offered on Wednesday's from 9a-7pm. The stations are self-guided and will be set up in the middle Sunday School room. Please come and engage in spiritual practice and quiet contemplation.
- Been attending awhile, but not a member? Bethlehem will be holding a "New-Member Sunday sometime this Spring. Watch the bulletin and Blurb for details!

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

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

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 3/12: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

Monday 3/13: ~Happy Birthday Ben Molitor!

Tuesday 3/14: ~Happy Birthday Jennifer Deignan!

Wednesday 3/15: 9a-7pm Prayer Stations; 6pm Confirmation class

Thursday 3/16:

Friday 3/17:

Saturday 3/18: ~Happy Birthday Tina Salm!

Sunday 3/19: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30 Bethlehem Ladies; 8:30 WISE Team; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Birthday Hallie Brockway!

**March Pantry Items:
Box of pasta, noodles, rice or crackers**



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Dale Spindler
Adeline Schmitz
Todd Lisowe
June Propson
Lucy Dreifuerst (Brian Witkowski's Grandmother)

Those struggling with health issues:

Bill Baldwin (Randy's Uncle)	Fred Kraemer
Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Darlean Rumpff	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
Tom Rabe	John Buchholz

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer

- Other Concerns:**
- Victims of violence
 - Victims of recent natural disasters, especially victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
 - People affected by war and/or oppression (Esp. Ukraine)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There are flyers on the bulletin board regarding a grief support group at Holy Family in Manitowoc, Cancer support groups, and sessions for those interested in foster parenting.
- Saturday, 3/17 – Woman's Day program 9am – Zion Lutheran Church, New Holstein.
- Upcoming Class
Do you have a fear of falling or losing your balance? The Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore, along with Bethlehem UCC Church is offering Stepping On, a 7 week workshop, beginning Thursdays, April 13th-May 25th from 1:00-3:00pm. Trained leaders and community professionals guide you in recognizing your risk of falling by identifying fall hazards in the home and community, help you build the balance, strength and practical skills you need to avoid a fall, how to safely get up from a fall, identify vision, footwear and medication management risks, and how to manage safely in inclement weather. The cost is a suggested \$10 donation. Please contact the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore at 1-877-416-7083 for more information or to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT LAKELAND UNIVERSITY - see flyers on bulletin board for more info.

3/26 - Bus trip to Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center- Leaving Lakeland at 8am

Disaster relief:

You can make a donation to the International Emergency fund designated for "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response". Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. You can mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note "Turkey and Syria" on your check in the memo section. You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444.