



If any want to
become my followers,
let them deny themselves
and take up their cross
and follow me.

Mark 8:34, NRSV

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Worship led by: Rev. Roy Rogers

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines

- Masks = You decide what's best for you, your loved ones and those around you.
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- Please wait for an usher to dismiss you after the service.
- 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

Leader: Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ.

People: We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.

Leader: Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

People: Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.

Leader: Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid.

People: Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven, that we might find the faith, hope, and love, witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.

* OPENING PRAYER

Pr: Let us pray. **Lord Jesus Christ, help us to see in the sufferings and shortcomings of our lives a share in Your Cross; strengthen and console us in the belief that we bear all things in union with You, who have taken upon Yourself even our guilt. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #190 verses 1-2

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

SERMON "How much does it cost to be a Christian?"

HYMN "When I Survey the Wonderous Cross" #170 vs 1-2

CALL TO THE OFFERING

We are living, breathing messages of God's love for the world. This is our work of faith and our labor of love and our steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ. Like the earliest Christians, we are here in this place because of the commitment and faith and generosity of others who shared the good news of the gospel in their time. So we turn now, in our time, and share our faith and our commitment through generous giving to support the ministry of this church in Christ's name. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

*RESPONSE "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be:

All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.

**In the upside down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.**

**Let us give away generously, in this offering,
To bless your church, your people, your creation.**

(Source: Quentin Chin, United Church of Christ [website](#))

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (congregation may be seated)
Father, we are your people, chosen by you. As we meet together in this place, help us to listen, to understand and to remember. Make us aware that we are meeting not simply with one another, but with you. Let your presence be real to each of us. As we pray, may it be just like speaking with you. As we listen, help us so concentrate, so that we really hear your word, and help us to take in and retain all that we hear here, see and experience this morning. Hear our confessions of those things we have done (*A silence is kept.*) Hear our confessions of those things which we ought not to have done. (*A silence is kept.*) Now hear our confessions of what we could or should have done in a different way to better reflect who you are in us. (*A silence is kept.*) Hear now our praise and thanksgivings for your blessings and unearned grace give to us. (*A silence is kept.*) It is in the name of Jesus, your beloved son, that we pray. Amen.

Lord today and every day, we worship YOU. We bless you for creating us in Your image. We thank You that after we fell away from You into sin, You did not *leave* us in our sin, but You came to us in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and was resurrected for our salvation. We rejoice that you then brought him to sit at your right hand, now with you. We can now enjoy you forever. As we await His coming again, receive this our worship in the strong and holy name of Jesus. Amen!

Let us pray (together aloud)...

**With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us –
even when we fell into sin.**

**We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who by his life, death and resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

Amen! and Amen!

Lord today and every day, we worship YOU. We bless you for your unceasing love for us. We thank You that after we turned our faces from You into sin, You did not abandon us or *leave* us in our sin. Instead, you came to us in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and was resurrected for our salvation. We rejoice that you continue your graceful initiative with us with the work of Your Holy Spirit. We invite Him to come into our midst right now and do *all* that He desires to do. We confess that we bring no righteousness to you except that which we accept as a free gift from you because of the perfect sacrifice of your son. As we await Jesus' coming again, receive this our worship in His holy name.

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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please wait to be dismissed by an usher. Thank you.)

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@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

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

The Birth of Zander Robert Jeanty - 2/9/22 - Parents Ben & Cassie Jeanty-
Grandparents Bruce & Polly Jeanty



Families who have lost loved ones:

Dale Horneck
Rev. Mark Jaberg

Those struggling with health issues:

Steve Kornely	Glen Schad
Signe Burkhart	Hailey Wirtz
Kenzie Koppenhaver	Darlene Horneck
Brenna Koppenhaver	Hattie Lucille
Elizabeth Loose	Warren Fidlin
Jane Markelz	Olivia Marie
Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)	Everett Henning
Steve Rumpff	Helen Henning
Jessica Horneck	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer
Leah Henning – Deployed to Japan

UPDATE: Field of Dreams is not accepting visitors at this time. We pray for the residents and staff by sending wishes of good health and well being during this recent uptick in area Covid cases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PIZZA PARTY with ICE CREAM SUNDAES

Sunday, April 3rd - following worship service - Everyone is invited

See the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Sponsored by Merry Christians

Leah Henning is stationed in Japan. Send cards and letters to: (standard US postage rates)
Sgt. Leah Henning
31st MEU CE S-3
Unit 35621
FPO, AP 96385-5621

Upcoming Community Events:

- SOUP COOK OFF – Sunday, March 20 – 11a-1:30pm – Laack’s Hall, Johnsonville – (\$10) – Proceeds support this summer’s combined mission trip of area UCC churches.



Daylight Saving Time on March 13

PORK CHOP DINNER!! Thursday, March

31 – 4p-7pm – Drive Thru Smoked Pork

Chop Dinner @ Saron UCC- Reservations required: call Joan (920-946-4652) or Judy (920-980-0748) Cost is \$12.00

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 3/13: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

~Happy Birthday Ben Molitor!!

Monday 3/14: *~Happy Birthday Jennifer Deignan!*

Tuesday 3/15

Wednesday 3/16: 6pm Confirmation Class

Thursday 3/17: *~Happy Birthday Paisley Bruckschen!!*

Friday 3/18:

Saturday 3/19: *~Happy Birthday Hallie Brockway and Aubree Bruckschen!!*

Sunday 3/20: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

~Happy Birthday Ross Westphalen!!

March – Box of Pasta, Noodles, Rice or Crackers