



For **God** did not
send his **Son** into the
world to condemn
the world, but to **save**
the world through **him**.

JOHN 3:17, NIV

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, March 5, 2023

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

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**

Into life's challenges and questions comes the Mystery of God,
and God's truth opens our eyes.

Into our routines and rituals walks the presence of Christ.
and God's love brings healing and hope.

Into our traditions and conclusions blows the wind of the Spirit,
and God's people are born from above.

We gather in Jesus' name to encounter God's grace and glory.
Let us worship God with open hearts and minds.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of majesty and mercy, Christ, both Lord and Servant, Spirit of new life, Your mystery embraces the vast reaches of the universe and yet you are present with us in the course of our daily lives. With even the tiniest spark of your wisdom illuminated the greatest complexities. With the smallest gesture of your love, you renew our hope. Deepen our sense of your holy presence this day. Assure us that your love will never let us

go. And so we offer our praise and our prayers this day to you, Holy God, Holy One and Holy Three, with humble hearts and faith that seeks understanding. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #41 all "To God Be the Glory"

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

O God, we all too often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Forgive us in our unwillingness to live by faith or to not trust you with providing all that we need for the journey. May God's mercy surround our weaknesses with grace for restoring us to hope everlasting.

(silent reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

Friends, the call of God does not leave us isolated and condemned on a road of uncertainty, fear, and mistakes made. God's unending love and compassion is for all whose burdens are heavy and whose weary journey brings tears. May the tender arms of God carry you forth in strength.

All: God has not come to condemn, but to offer a healing salve for our wounds. We welcome God's healing and salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Gloria Patri"

**Glory be to the Father, And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Psalm 121 p. 704- Leader reads odd verses, people read even verses,

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

SERMON

*HYMN #191 vs 1-3 "What Wonderous Love is This"

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 TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN #524 vs. 1-2 "Let us Break Bread Together"

THE STORY OF THE LAST SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Behold the Lamb of God

282

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Behold the Lamb of God'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system of lyrics is: 'Be - hold the Lamb of God, be - hold the Lamb of God' on the top staff, and 'Be - hold the Lamb, the Lamb of God' on the bottom staff. The second system of lyrics is: 'who takes a - way the sin, the sin of the world.' on the top staff, and 'who takes a - way the sin of the world.' on the bottom staff. Above the treble clef staff, there are chord symbols: A, D/A, E/A, Bm/A, D/A, Esus, and E.

WORDS and MUSIC: John L. Bell (1949-)
Words and Music © 1998 WORU The Iowa Community (Adrian, IA Publications)

Holy and Mysterious God,...and so we sing in praise of our Lord, first born of all creation:

Sing “Behold the Lamb of God”

Lord Jesus Christ, We come to the table to remember the love...

And so we remember in silence those who need your mercy this day.....

Hold silence

...We sing in remembrance of your grace: **Sing “Behold the Lamb of God”**

Holy Spirit, move among us in kindness now... For we sing in wonder at his gifts:

Sing “Behold the Lamb of God”

Holy God, Three in One, ...

We offer our lives to you in the words Jesus taught us:

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord Jesus Christ,
We are so grateful for the gifts you have shared with us,
For we know what they cost you.
Send us out in the strength of the Holy Spirit,
Unafraid of what service in your name will cost us,
For we would be faithful to you now and always. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION HYMN #524 vs. 3 “Let us Break Bread Together”

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

Generous God, we offer our gifts to you in gratitude for all that we have received in Christ and in creation. Bless our gifts and our lives, so that we can share in the building up of your kingdom in the world you love. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Petitions end with: God, our Companion **Walk with us on the way.**

*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

POSTLUDE

**Elements and liturgies for today's service were used with permission from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bethlehem members Will and Lora Mathes will be leading worship this Thursday, March 9 at Field of Dreams Assisted Living at 10:30am. All are invited to join them.
- Pastor Randy and his family will be out of the state from March 9-14. 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



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Dale Spindler
Adeline Schmitz

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.
- Feed my Starving Children – Help pack food for impoverished nations.- March 10-11 at First United Lutheran Church – Sheboygan - Sign up or donate at <https://give.fmssc.org/Sheboygan>
- Pancake Breakfast – Sunday 3/12 – 9a-noon - Holy Trinity Parish, School Hill
- 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.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 3/5: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30a WISE team; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion

Monday 3/6: ~Happy Birthday Mason Wempner!

Tuesday 3/7: ~Happy Birthday Dylan Jeanty!

Wednesday 3/8: 9a-7pm Prayer Stations;

Thursday 3/9:

Friday 3/10:

Saturday 3/11: ~Happy Birthday Steven Voland and Scott Umland!

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

March Pantry Items:

Box of pasta, noodles, rice or crackers