



# Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Worship led by: Rev. Roy Rogers  
Organist: Polly Jeanty

*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

L: For some of us, it was tempting to “sleep in” this morning.

**P: But God has called us to this place, to hear God’s word, to open our hearts in prayer and praise, and to seek direction for our lives.**

L: There are many temptations placed in front of us. We are called to be strong and place our trust in God.

**P: God is always faithful to us, comforting, guiding, lifting us. AMEN.**

### \* OPENING PRAYER

**Lord, the temptations of the world loom large before us. We are enticed, cajoled, and “sweet-talked” into moving from lives of service to lives of self-centeredness. We need your healing love. As you resisted the temptations in the wilderness, help us to place our trust in you, that we may be strong in our faith and confident in our service to you through serving others. AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN “Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart” #228 verses 1-2

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

### Luke 4: 1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON "The Benefit of the Wilderness"

HYMN "I Need Thee Every Hour" #268 vs 1-2

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Keep your eye on the sparrow! Keep your focus on God's unfolding realm on earth. Keep your heart open allowing it to spill all over everyone you meet. If you have a financial offering, place it in the plate but more importantly place your hand over it and silently commit to God to use your gifts, talents, and heart for furthering the unfolding realm of God on earth.

\*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

**Generous Father, thank you that all things were created through you and for you, you are before all things, and in you, all things exist. The Bible says that we should bring our tithes and offerings into your storehouse and that you will respond by opening the windows of heaven and sending down blessing**

**upon blessing. Accept the gifts we place before you now. May the peace of God reign in our lives, the love of God surround us, the Spirit of God empower us and the joy of God uphold us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S SUPPER (w/ gluten-free bread and juice)

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Each Sunday Christians throughout the world assemble in various locations to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. They gather around bread and wine in a meeting that the early Christians called the "Lord's Supper" (Corinthians 11:20) or the "Breaking of Bread" (Acts 2:42). This has been the practice of God's people since the time that the Lord Jesus Himself requested it:

*And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." – Luke 22:19-20*

In obedience to this command of the Lord, we gather each week to observe the Lord's Supper. In determining the manner in which to express our worship, we have sought guidance from the principles and pattern found in the New Testament. Let us receive communion together.

#### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**I pray that this holy Communion, far from condemning me to punishment, will plead effectively for my pardon. Let it be the armor of my faith and the shield of my good will. Let it purify me from my bad habits and put an end to my evil desires. Let it increase my charity and patience, humility and obedience, and all the virtues. Let it defend me against the traps of all my enemies, visible and invisible. Let it calm the passions of my body and spirit. Let it join me firmly to you, the one true God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with you.**

**And I pray that you will lead me, sinful as I am, to the banquet where you, with your Son and Holy Spirit, are to your saints true light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy, complete gladness, and perfect happiness.**

**Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (congregation may be seated)

Almighty God,

Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend,

You who sit enthroned over the flood—

We are staggering in the surf of breakers

bringing bad news, and worse news,

while an invisible menace laps at our doorstep.

Father of all mercies, by your grace,

**give us your grace.**

We are anxious, exhausted, angry, and sad.  
We need your peace that surpasses understanding  
to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
Be our refuge and strength;  
be our very present help in this time of trouble.  
Lord by your grace,,  
**give us your grace.**

Even in this trouble we thank you:  
for a white winter when the ground lies fallow from activity;  
for technology that unites exiles and draws the solitary near;  
for your church that prevails in catacombs and quarantine;  
for your own Holy Spirit who is socially present with us, always.  
Lord by your grace,  
**give us your grace.**

But Oh, forgive us, Holy Lord:  
for hating our unwashed neighbors in our heart;  
for opening our hearts to unfettered fear;  
for closing our hearts, and our pockets, to any in need;  
for loosening our grip on your precious and very great promises.  
Lord by your grace,  
**give us your grace.**

Assure us, our Gracious Redeemer:  
that our sins are nailed to the cross of Jesus;  
that we are clothed in the righteous white robes of Christ;  
that you will never leave us nor forsake us;  
that nothing – nothing – can separate us from your love.  
Lord by your grace,  
**give us your grace.**

Great Physician, we pray for those most vulnerable to this virus:  
for the elderly, the weak, and those with chronic conditions; and one we specifically  
mentioned...  
for the poor, the hungry, and the isolated;  
for those already infected.  
Deliver them from this evil,  
and prevent the rest of us from carrying it to them.  
Lord by your grace,  
**give us your grace.**

God of Hosts, we pray for the caregivers on the front lines:  
for doctors and nurses and healthcare workers;  
for police and firefighters and government officials;  
for parents in the home and under-shepherds in the church:  
Guard and guide them; shield and sustain them.  
Rock of Ages, we pray for the newly unstable:  
for those who have lost jobs, lost businesses, lost savings, lost homes;  
for those facing the likelihood of losing even more—  
Hide them in the cool shadow of your wings;  
provide every good thing for them  
that you, as a good Father, know they need.  
Lord by your grace,  
**give us your grace.**

Indwelling Spirit, empower your people to serve:  
to get wisdom, and live by it, and share it freely;  
to embody peace amid the strife of tongues;  
to present our bodies as living sacrifices;  
to suffer with Christ in patient endurance.  
Give us all fresh confidence that there is:  
no future where you are not present,  
no sorrow where you are not near,  
no tears not kept in your bottle,  
no locust-eaten years you will not restore.  
And so we trust you, our generous Provider:  
if the curve does not flatten,  
if the market does not pull up,  
if the shelves go empty,  
and if all our accounts drain to pennies—  
Even still, let us rejoice in the Lord, our strength;  
let us take joy in the God of our salvation.  
In the name of Jesus we ask, **Amen.**

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth.  
**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Son, our Savior and Redeemer,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, do not remember our offenses; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare your people, whom you have redeemed by your precious blood, and in your

mercy preserve us.

**Forgive us and spare us, good Lord.**

From temptations arising from the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your power, mercy, and providence, from this pandemic engulfing the world,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

For all people who are suffering from this pandemic in body, mind, or spirit,

**Good Lord, have mercy.**

For all people who are suffering poverty, isolation, or pain,

**Good Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have lost homes, jobs, or financial resources because of this pandemic,

**Lord, in your merciful providence, provide for them.**

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones from this virulent disease,

**Comfort and encourage them, O Lord.**

For those who transport life's necessities, provide essential services, or protect us,

**O Lord, strengthen and bless them,**

For our government, military, and business leaders who serve us in this pandemic,

**Give wisdom, kindness, and strength, O Lord.**

For medical doctors, nurses, technicians, and researchers who serve the sick,

**Give persistence, compassion, and insight, O Lord.**

For effective therapies, a cure, and a preventive vaccine,

**Lord, in your merciful providence, provide them.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come, life everlasting. **Amen** (A Prayer of John Chrysostom)

**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.)

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## 2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

**Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family**

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthy cows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthy cows.com)

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto: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:**

- Friday, March 11 – FISH BOIL – 3p-8p – St. Nazianz Fire Station- DRIVE THRU ONLY!

### **Mission Opportunity!!**

First United Lutheran Church in Sheboygan is hosting a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack on March 11-12, 2022.

A Feed My Starving Children facts sheet is posted in the fellowship hall. Here is the link to volunteer <https://give.fmsc.org/Sheboygan>. A packing session is a 2 hour commitment that goes by very quickly and is an enjoyable experience for a great cause.

- 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 3/6:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion

*~Happy Birthday Mason Wempner!!*

**Monday 3/7:** *~Happy Birthday Dylan Jeanty!*

**Tuesday 3/8:** 6:30pm Consistory mtg.

**Wednesday 3/9:** *~Happy Birthday Rachel Meyer!!*

**Thursday 3/10:**

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

**Saturday 3/12:**

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

*~Happy Birthday Ben Molitor!!*

**March – Box of Pasta, Noodles, Rice or Crackers**