



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Sunday, May 22, 2022

Worship led by: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

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

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you!

Let the earth rejoice and be glad,

let the heavens declare your righteousness!

May all people see your glory, O God;

may your ways be known throughout the earth.

Let us worship the God who loves us;

We come to worship with open hearts,

to raise our voices with thanks and praise.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of promise and purpose, we greet you this day with thankful hearts.

As flowers unfurl and buds open, the beauty of your world lifts our spirits in praise. As children grow and students prepare to graduate, their energy and enthusiasm encourage us toward your future. Your world is full of such variety and detail, we stand in awe of your creative imagination. Draw close to us in this hour of worship and show us the promise and purpose in our own lives. May we unfurl with your gift of new life, and move into the future, renewed by the energy of your Holy Spirit. Amen

*OPENING HYMN: #7 vs. 1 and 4 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of diversity and detail, the wonders of your creation amaze us.
Yet we confess we often fail to honour its beauty and variety
in the details of our lives. When voices differ in opinion, we listen to those we
agree with. We fail to honour experience different than our own.
We resist calls to honour the earth as if it were ours for the taking.
Forgive our narrow perspectives. Open our eyes and our hearts to the pain
and perspectives of others, and renew us all with your healing grace.**

(silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said, “My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Let his forgiveness set you at peace with God and yourself, and make peace with one another. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*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

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

SERMON

*HYMN #406 vs. 1-2

"Make Me a Channel of your Peace"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Asher Francisco Rodríguez

Born 11/22/21

Parents: Juan F Rodríguez and Rebecca A Rodríguez

Sponsors: Bradley Schmid and Mariah Burke

INVITATION

WELCOME

Leader: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

Leader: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.⁴

ADDRESS

Leader: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible ...and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.⁹

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (please stand)

People: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as he explores life. We enfold this child in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with these parents in telling the gospel in our midst so that this child may live with us for Christ, showing forth Christ's love for all people.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God with the United Church of Christ's Statement of Faith.

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through
prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of
Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and
races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be
your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and
rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

(be seated)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

*HYMN #516

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*OFFERTORY 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 God, we thank you for your gift of new life in Christ Jesus. Receive our gifts this day, and bless each gift and each giver. Use each one to witness to your purposes through our congregation and throughout the world you love, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (congregation may be seated)
Petitions end with, "God of mercy," Congregation responds with, "Hear our cry."**

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 - *Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steven 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

- The blue and yellow candle on the altar is lit in unity with the people of the Ukraine. These candles are available through the Door County Candle Co., owned by a Ukrainian-American family. Proceeds from their sales go directly to support citizens of Ukraine.
- Field of Dreams is NOW ACCEPTING visitors. Please arrange a visit with Merlin and Doris Mae and continue to keep them in your prayers.

Upcoming Community Events: (See Bulletin Board for more information.)

It's Time for the Undy 500 – Next Sunday is last day!!

Donations go to the Guest House of Milwaukee (Homeless Shelter)

All items must be NEW and extra-large sizes are highly needed (2XL, 3XL, 4XL, etc.)

- Men's Underwear - **BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY**
 - No briefs or "tighty whiteys," please
- Men's Undershirts
- Pajama Pants
- Women's Underwear
- Sports Bras
- All items size MEDIUM and 2XL or larger will receive one bonus point per item!



This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 5/22: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; **SPIRIT ARTICLES DUE**

Monday 5/23:

Tuesday 5/24: ~ Happy Anniversary Bill & Kelly Biwan!!

Wednesday 5/25: ~ Happy Anniversary Trevor & Tess Rabe!

Thursday 5/26:

Friday 5/27: ~Happy Birthday Noah Watson and Amber Hoeffner!!

Saturday 5/28: ~Happy Birthday Davin Horneck!!

Sunday 5/29: NO Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Birthday Armond Wempner!!

May – Bottle of Laundry Soap or Fabric Softener