



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, May 29, 2022

Worship led by: 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LITANY OF LAMENT

One: With Job of old we cry out:

All: Everywhere the innocent suffer.

One: Our desires and efforts achieve us little.

All: O God, are you good, yet do nothing to help us?

Our answers have holes, and we fall through.

Hear us, O God: **Hear us, O God.**

Revive us with hope: **Revive us with hope.**

Give us your life: **Give us your life.**

(A time of silence is kept.)

Hear these words, and receive their power:

The majesty of God the Father undergirds all that is.

The mercy of God the Son accepts our despair.

The comfort of God the Spirit embraces us in communities of care.

Thanks be to God: **Thanks be to God.**

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance.

Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.

All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HYMN: #434 all verses

“Precious Lord, Take my Hand”

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:6-11

A voice says, ‘Cry out!’

And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
‘Here is your God!’

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS IN UVALDE, TX

SONG #433 vs. 1

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

SECOND READING

Psalm 13

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, ‘I have prevailed’;
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

A CHRISTIAN PRAYER FOR PEACE OF MIND

Almighty God, We bless you for our lives, we give you praise for your abundant mercy and grace we receive. We thank you for your faithfulness even though we are not that faithful to you.

Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul and spirit. We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives.

Please guide our path through life and make our enemies be at peace with us. Let your peace reign in our family, at our place of work, businesses and everything we lay our hands on.

Let your angels of peace go ahead of us when we go out and stay by our side when we return.

In Jesus' name, Amen

- Author Unknown

SONG #433 vs. 2

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

THIRD READING

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY HEALING

SONG #433 vs. 3

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Gracious God,

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.

In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe. We ask this through your name. Amen

- Author Unknown

SONG #403

“Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

PERSONAL MEDITATION, SILENT PRAYER AND CANDLE LIGHTING

While the music plays, you are invited forward to light a candle for any reason that God places on your heart. There is a printed prayer on the table you may recite to yourself. You may also prayer the following prayers to yourself at this time:

Lord, please put Your peace in my heart.
I'm worried and anxious.
My mind races and obsesses.
I can't help thinking about my problems.
And the more I think about them,
the more depressed I become.
I feel like I'm sinking down in quicksand
and can't get out.
Calm me, Lord.
Slow me down, put Your peace in my heart.

No matter what problem I have, Lord,
You are bigger,
You are more powerful than it is.
So I bring my problem to You.
I know what I want.
I know my will.
I do not know Yours.
I do not know how You will use this problem
for my salvation.
I do not know what good You will workout
from this evil.
But I trust You.

I trust Your goodness and Your wisdom.
So I place myself in Your hands.
Please fill my heart with peace.

- Author Unknown

God, who is more than we can ever
comprehend,
help us to seek you,
and you alone.
Help us to stand before all that we could do
and seek what you would do,
and do that.
Lift from us our need to achieve all that we
can be
and instead,
surrender to what you can be in us.
Give us ways to refrain from the busyness
that will put us on edge and off center,
give us today your peace.

- Author Unknown

COMMENDATION OF PRAYERS

HYMN #389 all verses

“Be Still my Soul”

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*SUNG OFFERTORY PRAYER tune of “The Church’s One Foundation”

**Refreshed by living waters,
Renewed by living bread,
May we, your sons and daughters,
By your own hand be led
Accept the gifts we offer;
Receive the ones we owe.
Unite us in your service;
May seeds of justice grow.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER (congregation may be seated)

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.

SENDING SONG # 386 Vs. 1

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

BENEDICTION –

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, and grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit be with us now and remain with us this day and always. Amen.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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

Sources of this service:

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/beloved-community-prayer>

<https://www.ignatius.org/news-detail?pk=1236651&fromId=252153>

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MAY JINGLE CHANGE = Undy 500 It's time for the Undy 500!!! During the month of May, we will again be collecting items for the Milwaukee Guest House. Along with your jingle change please prayerfully consider bringing NEW men and women's undergarments and socks. They are especially in need of L, XL, and 2XL t-shirts for their male residents.

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys: The birth of Elizabeth Lynn Deignan; Born May, 2
Leah Henning is returning from her tour of duty in Japan

Families who have lost loved ones:

Everett Henning
Vernon Henschel
Marilyn Hanke

Those struggling with health issues:

Nikki (Friend of Bonnie Z)	Steve Kornely
Tom Lefeber	Steve Rumpff
Glen Schad	Jessica Horneck
Signe Burkhart	Janice Schad
Kenzie Koppenhaver	Darlene Horneck
Hattie Lucille	Karl(nephew of Will and Lora)
Elizabeth Loose	Warren Fidlin
Jane Markelz	Olivia Marie
Helen Henning	Dana P (friend of Melissa K)
Bennett (Grandson of Schmidts)	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

People of the Ukraine and others affected by war and violence.
People affected by recent gun violence in our nation.



