

**CAST ALL YOUR  
ANXIETY  
ON HIM,  
BECAUSE HE  
CARES FOR YOU.**

1 PETER 5:7

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

**Sunday, September 5, 2021**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

**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
- The congregation will refrain from singing (Humming is permitted)
- 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**

One: Put your confidence in God.

**All: Those who have God as their helper will rejoice.**

One: God gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

**All: God frees the prisoners and opens the eyes of the blind.**

One: So, put your trust in God's goodness.

**All: Let God's reign endure forever! Let us worship God.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Eternal God, first and last, our beginning and our end, beside you there is nothing or no one greater. You gave breath to all living things. By your Spirit, you are among us still, breathing new life, turning anger into reconciliation, division into unity, grief into consolation. Through your grace, you open up new directions and new possibilities for the world you love. So, we offer you our lives and our labours in worship and in service, joining in creation's song of praise and adoration:**

**Holy, holy, holy are you, O God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always. Amen.**

**SONG #7                    "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"            (no singing, please)**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy,  
we know you judge the world with an eye for the poor and outcast.  
We confess we fail to live with the same eye for those on the margins.  
We have been silent when we should have spoken up,  
and uncaring in the face of injustice.  
We have not shown the same generosity to others that you have shown us.  
Forgive us for putting ourselves first,  
and help us to serve you with the kindness we meet in Jesus Christ.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.  
Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE                    "Gloria Patri"            no singing, please**

**READING OF SCRIPTURE**

**James 2:1-17**

**My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my**

feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

### **Mark 7:24–37**

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man

who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

MESSAGE

SONG #62

"You Are my All in All"

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us pray.

**We give thanks, loving God,  
that you have refreshed us at your table.**

**Strengthen our faith;  
increase our love for one another.**

**As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread,  
may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and  
hope. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER...THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 the ushers. Thank you.)*

### **Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

#### **Joys:**

#### **Families who have lost loved ones:**

Robert Cwiertniak (Mathes' son-in-law)  
Carrie Hickman

#### **Those struggling with health issues:**

Hattie Lucille	Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)
Mary Vogel	Mike Mathes
Marilyn Hanke	Tom Brickbauer
Casey Litz (Cousin of Bonnie Zorn)	Macullen Schnell
Everett Henning	Dale Horneck
Warren Fidlin	Olivia Marie
Mother of Dawn Wirtz	Jessica Horneck

#### **Those unable to worship with us:** Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer

#### **Other concerns:**

The many Americans affected by hurricane Ida  
Those affected by wildfires  
Americans lost and affected by recent militant attacks in Afghanistan  
People of Afghanistan  
People of Haiti  
Division in the U.S.                      Racial Justice and equality in our country  
Health Care workers                      Those whose businesses are struggling  
Those who are out of work              People who live where violence and injustice prevails.

### *2021 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

SEPTEMBERS'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING SUPPORTS RURAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP'S CROP WALK, WHICH WORKS TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY ON BOTH A GLOBAL AND LOCAL SCALE.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Plan a visit to our homebound members!** Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer are at Field of Dreams in Kiel (286-6189) Call to arrange a visit.

Save the date:

Sept 12: First day of Sunday School

Sept 15: First day of Confirmation Class (6pm)

Sept 19: Mission Sunday

Oct. 10: Crop Walk

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Sunday, Sept. 19 – “Faith in the Fall” music festival – Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove – 10am-2pm – see flyer

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 9/5:** 9:30a Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Brian Loose!*

**Monday 9/6:** LABOR DAY!

**Tuesday 9/7:** 5pm Loads of Love

**Wednesday 9/8:** *Happy Anniversary Mark & Amber Krueger!*

**Thursday 9/9:** *Happy Birthday Lori Schmitt and Andrew Verhulst!*

**Friday 9/10:**

**Saturday 9/11:** *Happy Birthday Addison Salm!*

**Sunday 9/12:** 8:00a Sunday School; 9:30a Worship; *Happy Birthday Traci Rabe and Molly Rabe!*

**Pantry item: Toilet paper or Paper Toweling**