

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Church Office: 610-868-4441 Hours: Mon. - Fri., 9 AM – 1 PM

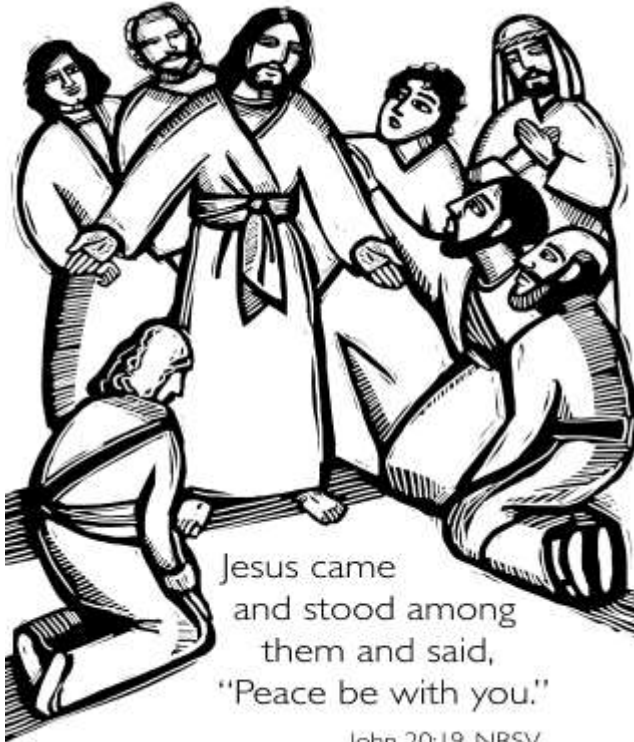
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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

“Moving Forward United in Faith”

“Committed to Christ, United by Love. We are about God, Christ, the Word, and the Future. No matter who you are or where you are on Life’s journey, you are welcome here. We are Bethany United Church of Christ.”

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 19, 2020

10:45 AM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of Worship. May this be a time of blessing for you. . If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany.

(*) PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ...Pastor Todd

PRELUDE: "This Joyful Eastertide"

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept!

C: Break forth into joy, sing together, for God has comforted those whose hearts were broken in sorrow.

M: Since by human sin came death, so by human faithfulness came resurrection from the dead.

All: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ. Amen

HYMN: #169 "Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

Gracious God, power of life, we praise You that You have not abandoned us to the living death of sin and despair, but that, with Jesus Christ, You have lifted us up from the grave.

Grant that we might live in newness of life, that we might ourselves know the power of resurrection, now and in the world to come; for it is in the name of the risen Christ that we pray. Amen.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

The Gospel: John 20:19-31

SERMON: "A Certain Hope"

CALL TO PRAYER - PASTORAL PRAYER - LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: #168 "Jesus Lives and So Shall I".

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "On Wings of Living Light"

AUDIO RECORDINGS of Bethany's Worship Services are now available on Bethany's home page at uccbethany.org or you can join the email notification list by contacting Bill Rumble at

wrumble@ptd.net

www.facebook.com/BethanyUCCBethlehem. If you have an Instagram account, you can follow us @BethanyUCCBethlehem. We also invite you to tag the church in your posts and use the hashtag #BethanyUCCBethlehem to share posts and photos on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!

GROWTH COMMITTEE: An invitation - many ideas are exchanged among the (small but mighty) Growth Committee. If you have an idea and want to help make it happen, whether it's a onetime event or an ongoing thing, please talk to any member of the Growth Committee: Debbie Brown, Patti Hoyt, Adrienne Kotsko, Jenna Nguyen, or Jackie Tarasuk

2020 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance. Please note two vases will cost \$40. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30. Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk.

Any questions, contact the church office.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 16 (NSRV)

- ¹Keep me safe, my God,
for in you I take refuge.
- ²I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."
- ³I say of the holy people who are in the land,
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."
- ⁴Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.
- ⁵LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.
- ⁶The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.
- ⁷I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
- ⁸I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
- ⁹Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
- ¹⁰because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful^[a] one see decay.
- ¹¹You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NRSV)

A Living Hope

- ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by

the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice,^[a] even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen^[b] him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”



The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe^(b) that Jesus is the Messiah,^(a) the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hello Bethany Family,

I miss you very much and hope that we can be together soon. I heard recently from Bob Rapp who is the Executive Director for the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter. As you may know the shelter for the homeless of our community had to be shut down due to Covid 19. Packed lunches are being prepared and distributed out of Christ UCC. Donation items needed for these lunches include small pop top cans of fruit, meat, peanut butter, energy and granola bars, small hand sanitizers and bottled water.

If you wish to contribute to this project you may drop off items at Bethany (inside the Market Street front door) on Mondays or Tuesdays between 9-11 am. I will see that items get delivered to Christ Church.

Thankyou! Pastor Todd

PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Todd's office hours are Monday and Tuesday from 9A – Noon. Any appointments may be made by calling the church office 610-868-4441

March-April-May Daily devotional booklets are available on the Radiator at the rear of the church. Suggested donation is \$1.

You may submit prayer requests to Pastor Todd by email which can be shared in our worship time. His email is tnjfnl@gmail.com. Or you can call them in to the church office 610-868-4441

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

(Listen to these services on the audio or watch on FB livestream)

TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 19

10:45 A Worship

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

10:45 A Worship

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING Your church still has day to day expenses to cover during these trying times.

There is a basket in the Narthex for your donations of combs and tissue packets. Thank You!

Special thanks to Pastor Todd and Adrienne Kotsko for their sharing their vocal talents for today's services.



A profound thank you to the congregation for their very generous donation of \$1,125.00 to Alzheimer's Disease Research Matching Gift opportunity. It is amazing that we were able to collect such a huge amount despite the stay-at-home current situation. Bravo! Well done!
Many Thanks, Sue Wright

We want to thank the Pastor for his calls and the many folks at Bethany who sent us Easter cards. All were greatly appreciated, and we wish all a blessed Easter season and a happy spring!
Ken and Joan Mathias

