

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

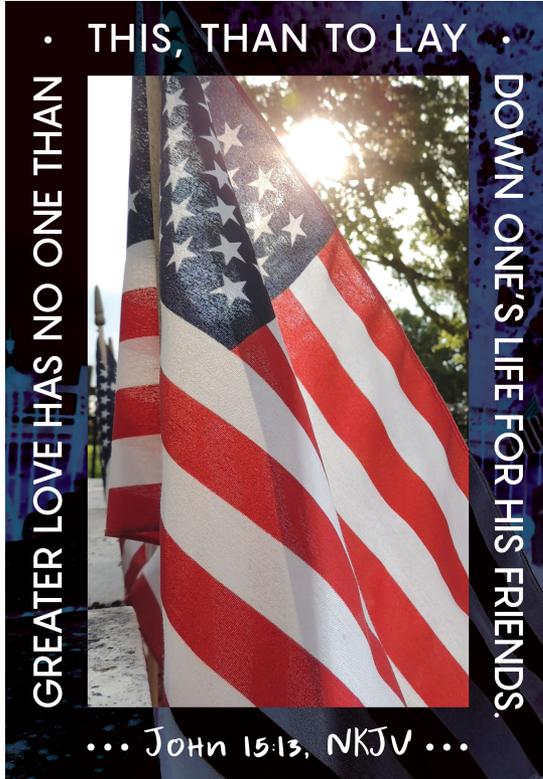
Fax: 610-868-7918 E-Mail: [bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com](mailto:bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com)

Web address: [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



May 24, 2020

Seventh 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

May 24, 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: "O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing" "Blessing and Honor" "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Rejoice, O earth, the Lord is Sovereign

**C: Let us worship the Lord, Who reigns with justice and righteousness.**

M: Rejoice, O earth, the Lord is righteous.

**C: Let us worship the Lord and give thanks to God's Holy name!**

HYMN: #317 "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

**O God of steadfast love, we thank You for the lessons of the past. We remember all that You have done for us; make us truly thankful. We remember times of joy and sorrow. We share the memory of Your people as they have journeyed through time; it is our story as well. Bless this hour of worship. Lord, bless our hearts, this church and our nation through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:6-14

I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

John 15:9-17

SERMON: "That's the Way it Is"

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

CALL TO PRAYER –PLAYING OF TAPS -PASTORAL PRAYER –  
LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #730 “Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Eternal Father Strong To Save”



Special thanks to Rebecca Kesselring for her musical accompaniment on the piano with this week’s service.

MANY THANKS to the Bethany team of 12 that worked on gathering trash at the church on May 11 & 18.

**AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS** of Bethany's Worship Services as well as a copy of the bulletin, are now available via Bethany’s home page at <https://uccbethany.org> You can also visit us at [www.facebook.com/BethanyUCCBethlehem](http://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!

**GOT IDEAS? Contact the GROWTH COMMITTEE:** If you have an idea and want 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 **The next meeting will be Monday, June 8 @ 7 PM in Snyder Chapel.**

**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.**

**CONSISTORY CORNER:** The Consistory of Bethany has approved the opening of Bethany for meetings only in the month of June. We are tentatively looking to reopen Bethany for Sunday worship on July 5 at 10 a.m. We will keep you posted.

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **Acts 1:6-14 (NRSV)**

#### **The Ascension of Jesus**

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

#### **Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas**

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of <sup>f</sup>al James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## **1 Peter 4:12-14 (NRSV)**

### **Suffering as a Christian**

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory,<sup>[a]</sup> which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.<sup>[b]</sup>

## **1 Peter 5:6-11 (NRSV)**

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves, keep alert.<sup>[a]</sup> Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters<sup>[b]</sup> in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

## **John 15:9-17 (NRSV)**

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants<sup>[a]</sup> any longer, because the servant<sup>[b]</sup> does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my

name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.



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.

Thank you! Pastor Todd

**June 2 Election day soup and baked goods sale has been cancelled.**

***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***

**June-July-August 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](mailto:tnjfnl@gmail.com). Or you can call them in to the church office 610-868-4441

**THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

**SUNDAY, MAY 24**

10:45 A      Virtual Worship

**MONDAY, MAY 25 – MEMORIAL DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)**

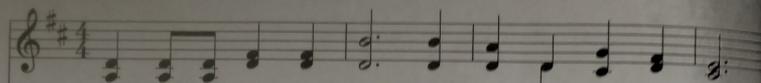
**SUNDAY, MAY 31 - PENTECOST SUNDAY**

10:45 A      Virtual Worship

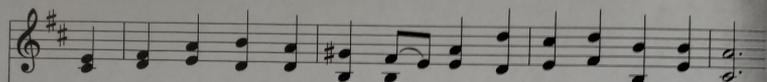
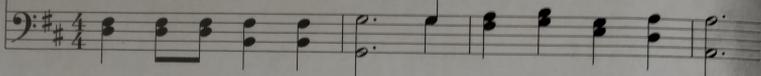
**PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING** Your church still has day to day expenses to cover during these trying times.



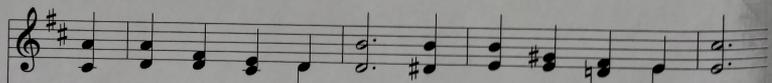
## 317 Crown Him with Many Crowns



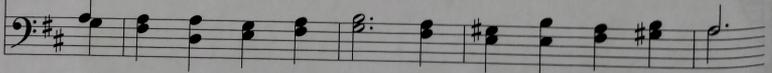
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.  
 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



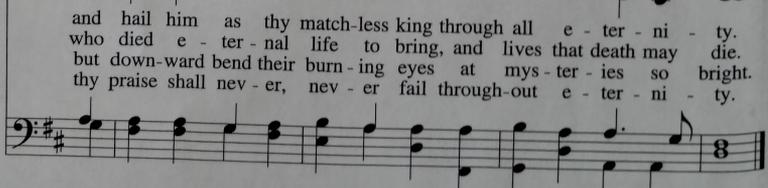
Hark! how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied;  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 his glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,  
 no an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.



WORDS: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)  
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey (1816-1893)

DIADEMATA  
 S.M.D.

## 730 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



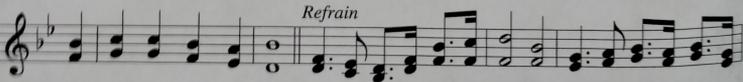
1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;  
 2 I have seen him in the watch - fires of a hun - dred cir - cing camps,  
 3 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;  
 4 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



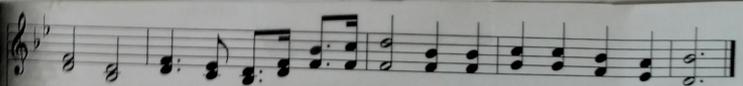
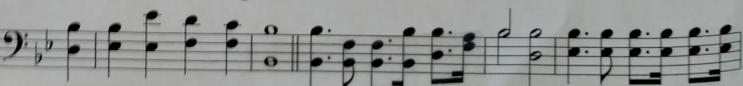
he is tramp - ling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
 they have build - ed him an al - tar in the eve - ning dews and damps;  
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of all be - fore his judg - ment seat.  
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me;



he hath loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword;  
 I can read his right - eous sen - tence by the dim and flar - ing lamps;  
 O be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!  
 as he died to make us ho - ly, let us die to make all free,



his truth is march - ing on.  
 his day is march - ing on.  
 Our God is march - ing on. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le -  
 while God is march - ing on.



lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

