

# 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 17, 2020

Sixth 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 17, 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: "Holy Ghost, The Infinite"

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: This is a day to celebrate the new life of God's Spirit.

**C: To open our ears to the sounds of God's world.**

M: To open our eyes to the beauty of creation.

**All: We are glad for God's spirit, our helper, guide and friend. Let us worship God!**

HYMN: #192 "Gracious Spirit, Dwell In Me".

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

**O God Your church has been built upon a foundation of love; a love that surrounds us, supports us, and sustains us. Our Lord's Resurrection proclaims Your great and gracious love, calling us a community to love one another. May we seek that Christ-like love as you give us Your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 66:8-20

Acts 8:26-40

John 14:15-21

SKIT: "Pandemic Perspective"

SERMON: "Turning Points"

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

## CALL TO PRAYER - PASTORAL PRAYER – LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #151 “Come Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “O Grant Us Life’

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](https://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 66:8-20 (NRSV)

- <sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
<sup>9</sup> who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.  
<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.

- <sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
<sup>12</sup> you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>13</sup> I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
<sup>14</sup> those that my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.*Selah*  
<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.  
<sup>17</sup> I cried aloud to him,  
and he was extolled with my tongue.  
<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
<sup>19</sup> But truly God has listened;  
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.  
<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God,  
because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.

## **Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)**

### **Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south<sup>[a]</sup> to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit

beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>37</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>38</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>39</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## **John 14:15-21 (NRSV)**

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep <sup>[a]</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, <sup>[b]</sup> to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in <sup>[c]</sup> you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”



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



MANY THANKS to the Bethany team of 12 that is working on gathering trash at the church. Another round is scheduled for Monday, May 18 @ 1 PM.



Betha

ny will serve as a polling place on

Tuesday, June 2. We would like to have a baked good dessert sale as well as homemade soup take out. Please call the church office if you will help out with this and/or if you will donate a baked good or soup donation at the polling place here..



BAKE GOODS NEEDED



CONGRATS and GOD'S BLESSINGS to Ted and Marion Hendricks who are celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, May 21.

***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**

##### **TODAY, SUNDAY, MAY 17**

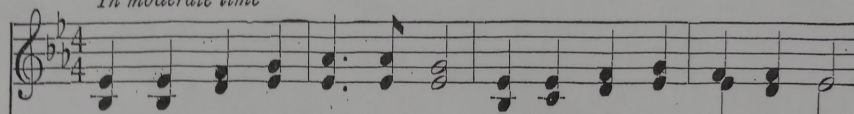
10:45 A Virtual Worship

##### **THURSDAY, MAY 21 – ASCENSION DAY**

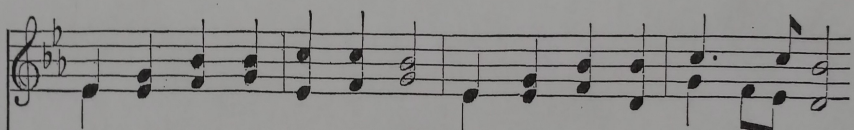
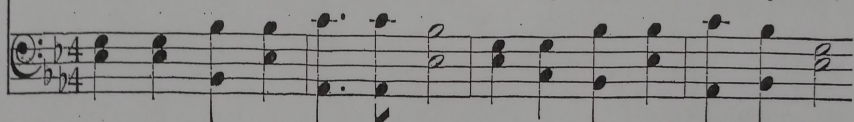
##### **SUNDAY, MAY 24**

10:45 A Virtual Worship

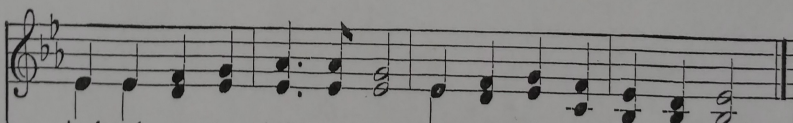
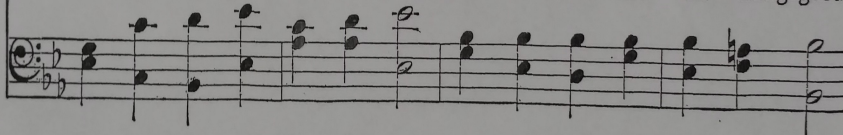
**PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING** Your church still has day to day expenses to cover during these trying times.

*In moderate time*

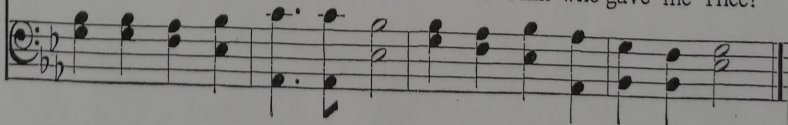
- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Gra - cious Spir - it, dwell with me; | I my - self would gra - cious be; |
| 2. Truth - ful Spir - it, dwell with me; | I my - self would truth - ful be; |
| 3. Might - y Spir - it, dwell with me;   | I my - self would might - y be;   |
| 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, dwell with me;     | I my - self would ho - ly be;     |



And, with words that help and heal, Would Thy life in mine re - veal;  
 And, with wis - dom kind and clear, Let Thy life in mine ap - pear;  
 Might - y so as to pre - vail Where, un - aid - ed, man must fail;  
 Sep - a - rate from sin, I would Choose and cher - ish all things good.



And, with ac - tions bold and meek, Would for Christ my Sav - iour speak.  
 And, with ac - tions broth - er - ly, Speak my Lord's sin - cer - i - ty.  
 Ev - er by a might - y hope, Press - ing on and bear - ing up.  
 And what - ev - er I can be Give to Him who gave me Thee!





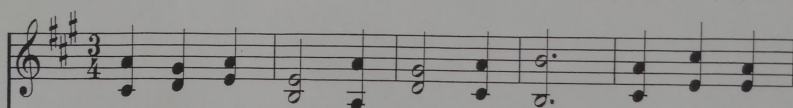
## Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

MENDON L.M.

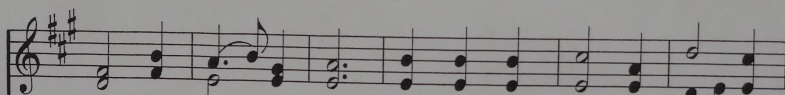
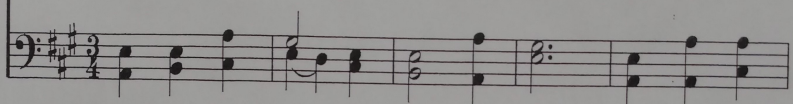
German Melody

Simon Browne, 1720, alt.

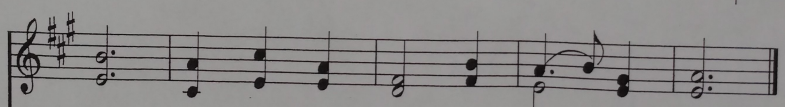
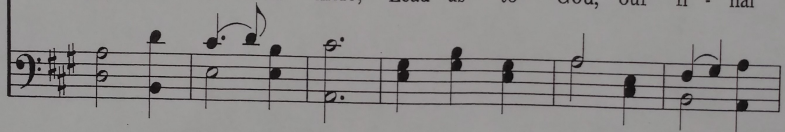
Arr. by Samuel Dyer, 1828



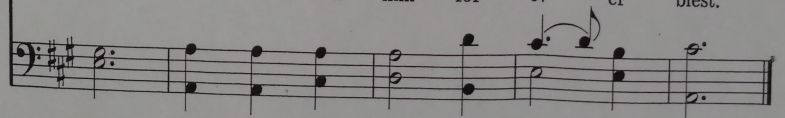
1. Come, gra - cious Spir - it, heav'n - ly Dove, With light and  
 2. The light of truth to us dis - play And make us  
 3. Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing Way, Nor let us  
 4. Lead us to heav'n, that we may share Full - ness of



com - fort from a - bove; Be thou our guard - ian, thou our  
 know and choose thy way; Plant ho - ly fear in ev - ery  
 from his pre - cepts stray; Lead us to ho - li - ness, the  
 joy for - ev - er there; Lead us to God, our fi - nal



guide, O'er ev - ery thought and step pre - side.  
 heart, That we from thee may ne'er de - part.  
 road That we must take to dwell with God.  
 rest, To be with him for - ev - er blest.



A higher setting may be found at No. 154.