

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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Patti Smith Hoyt, Worship Leader

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



October 25, 2020

Reformation Sunday

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

## “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

OCTOBER 25, 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

PRELUDE "Song of Hope" ...K. Mitchell  
Handbell Choir

## RINGING OF THE BELL

### CALL TO WORSHIP

M: We are invited to share in Christ's ministry of compassion.

**C: We will widen our hearts so we might cradle the lost.**

M: We are challenged to learn more about God each day.

**C: We will open our minds so we might discern God's dreams for us.**

M: We are summoned to let the Spirit be planted within us.

**C: We will deepen our souls so we might grow in love.**

HYMN #507 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

You who have created us and sustain us: we come with thanksgiving for these moments when we can ease the pace of our lives and listen for your voice. Create a spirit within us that truly draws us toward you and toward our brother and sisters; a spirit deep, perceptive, gentle and bold. Clear our minds, open our hearts and touch us with your presence and your power. Amen

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE (*with waves and prayer hands*)

M: We are all children of God gathered in the place. Let us greet one another as children of God. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #661 All People That On Earth Do Dwell. (*vs. 1*)

**All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; him serve with joy, his praise forth tell, come ye before him and rejoice.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament - Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

New Testament - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Gospel - Matthew 22:34-46

SERMON: Love, Love, Love, Love

OFFERING INVITATION

Just as Christ has taught the way of life to us, the church, we have the responsibility of bringing life to the world around us through our ministries and the outreach of missions through our connections of faith around the globe. Let us offer gratefully and sacrificially to the work of God who has given all for us.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS (*You may come to place your offering in the plate up front*)

OFFERTORY: "Andante Religioso"...F. Thomé...arr. E. Smith  
Piano/organ duet

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #688 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"  
(*Vs. 1*)

**We give thee but thine own, what -e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust O Lord, from thee.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**C: We thank you, God for this opportunity to express our love to you through the gifts we bring to support and encourage your work in near and distant places. Make our hearts glad that we can share in extending the gospel and helping to heal humanity's pain, for we bring them to you with grateful hearts.**

## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### CALL TO PRAYER– 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### HYMN #708 “Go Forth for God”

### BENEDICTION

M: And now go forth, to love God with all your heart, your mind, your soul:

**C: with passion, with prayer, with intelligence;**

M: to love your neighbor:

**C: with forgiveness, with service, with love;**

M: and to love yourself:

**C: with hope, with joy, with peace.**

### CHORAL BENEDICTION: #717 Go Now In Peace. *Vs. 1*

**Go now in peace; through friends must part, your presence lives in every heart. Your gifts to us no words can tell: go now in peace, in Christ go well.**

### \*POSTLUDE

**Silk flowers** are placed on the altar in memory of Edward and DaMaris Stanley in honor of their October birthdays by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.

**Greeters:** Ina Denninger

**Reader:** Rebecca Kesselring

**Ushers:** Jack Brunner, Tom Wright, Steve Tarasuk, Lisa Williams

**Acolyte:** Diane Diefenderfer

### **Welcome all to Bethany UCC!**

Visitors, please sign our guest book in the narthex. Come again.

In these days of COVID 19 please abide by these safety

measures: All must wear masks and please sanitize hands as you

enter and exit. The bulletins have everything you need for worship. Please space yourselves from one another except for family units. We will greet one another with waves and prayer hands. You will be invited to come forward to leave your offering in the plate up front. The joys and concerns will be included in worship. You may use the lectern mic to share.

**AUDIO RECORDINGS** If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio recording of the worship service, please let Bill Rumble know at [wrumble@ptd.net](mailto:wrumble@ptd.net). A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link.

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!

**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.**

Thanks to all who helped and supported 10/17 Pancake & Sausage Breakfast and Matey's Pizza Sale! This resulted in \$402 from breakfast and \$88 from pizza sale.

Thank you to Debbie, Rebecca and Len for sharing this Laity Sunday!

Pastor Todd and Jean are away today. We welcome Patti Smith Hoyt as our guest worship leader and preacher.

Pastor Tammie Rinker of West End Moravian Church is available for pastoral emergencies.

**REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON SATURDAY NIGHT (October 31)**

# SCRIPTURE

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 NSRV

## **God's Eternity and Human Frailty**

### **A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.**

<sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place<sup>a</sup>  
in all generations.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

<sup>3</sup> You turn us<sup>b</sup> back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup> You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

<sup>6</sup> in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

<sup>13</sup> Turn, O LORD! How long?  
Have compassion on your servants!

<sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup> Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.

<sup>16</sup> Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

<sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 NSRV

## **Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica**

**2** You yourselves know, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> that our coming to you was not in vain, **2** but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. **3** For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, **4** but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. **5** As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; **6** nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, **7** though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle<sup>[a]</sup> among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. **8** So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

## Matthew 22:34-46 NSRV

### **The Greatest Commandment**

**34** When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, **35** and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. **36** "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" **37** He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' **38** This is the greatest and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

### **The Question about David's Son**

**41** Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: **42** "What do you think of the

Messiah?<sup>[a]</sup> Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." <sup>43</sup> He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> calls him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup> 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'?" <sup>45</sup> If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" <sup>46</sup> No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**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

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

**Welcome to Ashley Tarasuk**, our part-time cleaning person until Linda Trainer returns.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner for November has been **CANCELLED.**

Order sheets from Chocolates on Broadway for Christmas candy sale have arrived. Please contact Debbie Brown or the office if you would like to take one to your workplace or neighborhood.

Place your nut orders by November 1 by calling Debbie Brown @ 484-358-3735.

Nut making will be on November 7 and 9 starting at 9 a.m.

***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*

**THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**

10:45 A          Worship

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28**

5:30 P          Handbells

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**

6 – 8 P          Trick or Treat night

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1- ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

9:30 A          Adult DVD study "The Parables of Jesus" in FH

10:45 A          Worship

**Nut orders due** – call or see Debbie Brown



*Bethlehem has announced that there will be a trick or treat night from 6 - 8 P on Friday, October 30. Donations of candy and/or bottled water can be brought to Bethany. There is a wash basket in the vestibule for your items.*

New members will be received on November 8. Please let Pastor Todd know if you want to join the Bethany Family.



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**



### **Free drive through flu shots offered November 7 & 8.**

LVHN will be sponsoring the free flu shot clinics on both sites from 9 A – 3 P on November 7 at Dorney Park and at Coca Cola Park on November 8.

Vaccinations will be for 6 months to 64 years of age and a senior dose for those age 65 and older. For mandatory registration forms visit [www.lvhn.org/flushot](http://www.lvhn.org/flushot) or call 888-402-5846. Complete and bring a 2020 consent form for each person to be vaccinated. Wear loose fitting clothing for the shot to be administered in the arms of adults and in the legs of children under two years old. LVHN is collecting optional donations of unexpired, non-perishable food items for use by area food banks and shelters at the drive thru sessions.

October is Breast Cancer awareness month. Special “reminders” are available for all ladies to take one of the following:



2021 calendar & pen  
sticky note pad and pen  
mini flashlight on a chain

Enjoy

*Susan*

It will be 1 year on October 29 that I am cancer free.

Be diligent about self-checking yourself monthly – it is important as we get older. It happens in families that don't have a history of breast cancer.

## 507 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing;  
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,  
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;

our help - er he, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing;  
 were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos - ing;  
 we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to tri - umph through us,  
 the Spir - it and the gifts are ours thro' him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are  
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his  
 The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en -  
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may

great, and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual -  
 name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tie.  
 dure, for lo, his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 kill: God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for - ev - er.

## Go Forth for God

1 Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good  
 2 Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the  
 3 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the  
 4 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace, in God's good Spir - it  
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;  
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one  
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we see face to  
 rich - ly from a - bove, God's love sup - plies the grace and power we  
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his  
 ev - ery gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.  
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love.  
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.  
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.