

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Church Office: 610-868-4441

Fax: 610-868-7918

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:30-1:30

E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



**"She out of
her poverty has
put in everything
she had."**

MARK 12:44

November 15, 2020

Twenty fourth 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

November 15, 2020

10:45 AM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of Worship. May this be a time of blessing for you. We encourage our visitors to include their name, address, and phone number in the Guest Book at the top of the steps and come again. 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)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYFUL NOISE Wounded Warrior Project

PRELUDE *Selected*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;

All: And whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord for he is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever. Oh, taste and see, that the Lord is good. Let us worship God!

HYMN: #342 Rejoice the Lord is King

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts of life; for family, for friends, for church. You open Your hand and feed us, giving us the things that we need. Inspire us to return to You the gifts of our very lives. Consecrate our lives to your service and to Your glory. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #40 For the Beauty of the Earth. Vs.1

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 90: 1-12

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Mark 12: 38-44

Leader: This is the Good News.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON "A Mighty Sacrifice"

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: "God Help the Outcasts" music by Alan Menken / Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

I don't know if You hear me, or if You're even there, I don't know if You will listen to a Humble Prayer.

They tell me I'm an outcast, I shouldn't speak to you, Still I see Your face and wonder; were You once an outcast too?

I don't know if there's a reason why some are blessed, some not. Why the few You seem to favor, they fear us, flee us, try not to see us.

God help the outcasts, the tattered, the torn, seeking an answer to why they were born.

Winds of misfortune have blown them about, You made the outcasts'; don't cast them out.

The poor and the unlucky, the weak and the odd; I thought we all were the Children of God.

(As we enjoy the celebration of Thanksgiving, let us not forget those less fortunate.)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #726 We Praise You, O God
With voices united our praises we offer, our songs of thanksgiving to you now we raise; your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us, to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

All: Living God, we are your people, called to carry your presence into the world. Use us and our gifts to accomplish your mission. We dedicate this offering to your good purpose and ask you to multiply our effort to meet the needs of the time and to witness to your goodness. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sins/sin against us*)

**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 # 614 Let there be Peace on Earth

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #720 With Grateful Heart I Thank
You, Lord. Vs. 2

**I thank you Lord, for wind and rain and for the silver
moon, for every daisy's lifted face, for every lovely tune,
for winter's white, for autumn's gold, for harvest and for
home, with grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for each
good gift I own.**

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



Ushers: Bob Ruhe, Len Kesselring and Volunteers

Lay reader: Bob Ruhe

Greeters: Cindy Beck and Bob Ruhe

Altar Guild: Gail Correll

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. 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.

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

Debbie Brown is the church secretary and the office hours will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-1:30.

Scripture

Psalm 90: 1-12 NRSV

God's Eternity and Human Frailty

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- ² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³ You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- ⁷ For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
- ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- ⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
- ¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
- ¹² So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

I Thessalonians 5:1-11 NRSV

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Mark 12: 38-44

Jesus Denounces the Scribes

³⁸ As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

The Widow's Offering

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small

copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY NOV 15TH

9:30 AM Adult DVD study “The Parables of Jesus” in FH

10:45 AM Worship with Joyful Noise to be donated to the Wounded Warriors Project

NEXT SUNDAY NOV 22 HARVEST HOME SUNDAY

9:30 AM Adult DVD study “The Parables of Jesus” in FH

10:45 AM Worship with Dedication of the Grand Piano in the Sanctuary. Please bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Food Bank.



*Our thanks today to
Rebecca Kesselring for
serving as Organist/Pianist today. You bring us joy
with your music!*

Our sympathies to Cindy Cressman and family on the loss of her Dad, Harold Maurer. May God bless them with His comfort and peace.

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

1 Re - joi - ce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His King - dom can - not fail, he rules both earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joi - ce in glo - rious hope for Christ the Judge shall come

Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given:
 to gath - er all his saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Re - joi - ce, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!

Let There Be Peace on Earth

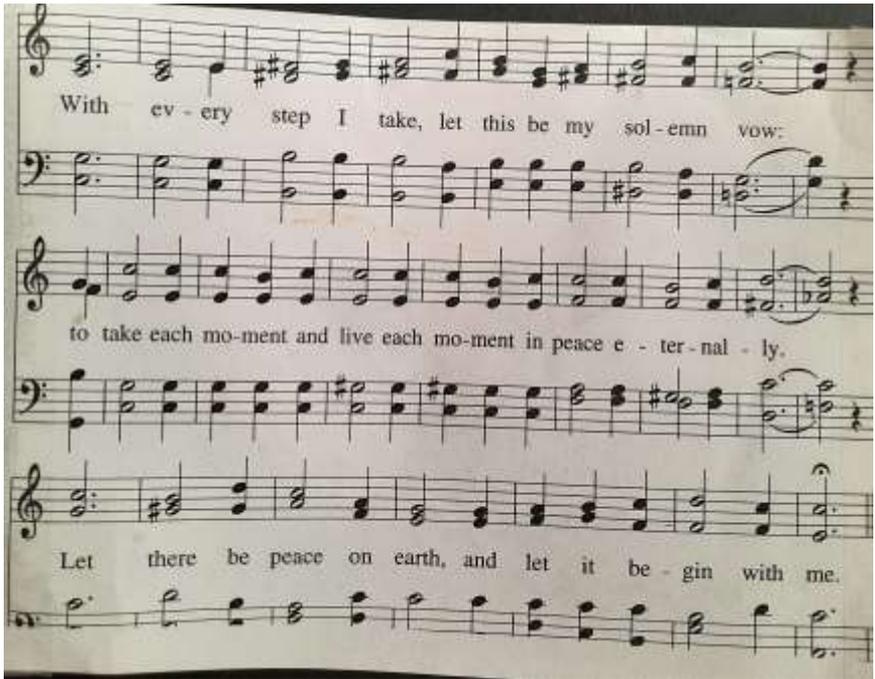
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.



Thank you to everyone who came out last week to help with our Nut sale. Orders came to over \$1000 dollars. Let's see if we can top that in December. Remember nuts make a great gift for the holidays. Orders are due Monday November 30th. Please call Debbie Brown @ 484-358-3735. If you are giving an order in person please write it down. Thanks again!

Order sheets from Chocolates on Broadway for Christmas candy sale have arrived. We will be taking orders until Nov. 29th and pick-up will be Dec. 13th. Please contact Debbie Brown in the office if you would like to take one to your workplace or neighborhood.