

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Church Office: 610-868-4441 Fax: 610-868-7918

Hours: Mon., Tues. and Thurs. – 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.ucbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



November 8, 2020

Twenty third 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 8, 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

PRELUDE "Many and Great" ... Native American melody

Flute: Kaitlin Nguyen Liturgical movement: Jenna Nguyen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

All: And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

All: And forget not His benefits.

Pastor: Where there is no vision, the people perish.

All: Give us a vision of You, Lord God. Amen.

HYMN: #22 Let All Things Now Living

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

We come before you, O God, a blessed people who enjoy the benefits of Your grace and Your love. We come in deep gratitude for Your church in this and every place, and for the legacy of your reconciling love, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. According to Your benevolent will, inspire and use our talents, gifts and service to the glory of Your name. Through Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, 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 78: 1-7

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Matthew 25: 14-30

Leader: This is the Good News.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON "Use or Lose"

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Congregation: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in knowledge and love for God and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

HYMN #589 "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" Vs. 1&4

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free, tell me thy secret: help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way, in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

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: "Twenty-Third Psalm - An Interpretation" ...F.
Waterman

*All around me deep inside me, my creator sings His song,
and its music is the beauty of this world where I belong.
With the sun He lifts my eyes up to behold His righteousness,
On the wind He send me comfort, with the rain He sends me rest.
Though the clouds of sorrow gather, and the night falls all too soon,
Hope of morning fills my dwelling, and my fears can find no room.
Surely goodness is not fleeting, surely mercy is not dust,
I will go into forever on His rising wing of trust.*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #726 We Praise You, O God Vs. 1
We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring; we lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.

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 #688 We Give Thee But Thine Own

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!



Silk flowers and Bulletins are placed in Honor of our new members. Welcome

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

Lay reader: Mike Reiniger

Greeters: Jack and Diane Brunner

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.

Today we welcome these new members into the Bethany Family: Pastor Todd and Jean Fennell, Walter Long, Barbara Sigafoos, John Talijan and Deborah Young. Gods blessings as they journey in faith with us.

Scripture

Psalm 78 NRSV

God's Goodness and Israel's Ingratitude A Maskil of Asaph.

- ¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- ² I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- ³ things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

⁴ We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.

⁵ He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;

⁶ that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,

⁷ so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 NRSV

The Coming of the Lord

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25: 14-30 NRSV

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, ^[a] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more

talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY NOV 8TH

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

10:45 A Worship with Receiving New Members

MONDAY NOV 9TH

Nut Making in FH Please bring your lunch

WEDNESDAY NOV 11TH Veteran's Day Thank a vet!

5:30pm Bells in the Sanctuary

6:30pm Worship Meeting

THURSDAY NOV 12TH

7pm Consistory

SUNDAY NOV 15TH

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

10:45 A Worship

Free drive through flu shots offered November 8. LVHN will be sponsoring the free flu shot clinics on both sites from 9 A – 3 P 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 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.

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

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 His law he en - forc - es; the stars in their cours - es and

God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the

fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

guides us and leads to the end of our days. His
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine. We

22

ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be - fore us, a
too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing; with

pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night, till
glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise, till

shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing; to

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

688 We Give Thee but Thine Own

The image shows a page of a hymnal with musical notation and lyrics. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are arranged in two systems, each with five numbered lines of text. The first system of lyrics is: 1 We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; 2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re-ceive, 3 To com-fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe, 4 The cap-tive to re-lieve, to God the lost to bring, 5 And we be-lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be: The second system of lyrics is: all that we have is thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. and glad-ly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give. to tend the lone and fa-ther-less is an-gels' work be-low. to teach the way of life and peace-it is a Christ-like thing. what-e'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it un-to thee.

WORDS: William W. How (1823-1897)
MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

SCHUMANN

Please join me in sending encouragement and thanks to Joshua N Talijan who is currently at Boot Camp in Texas. Right now, we are unable to send a care package but cards and letters would be appreciated. Address as follows:

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