

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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

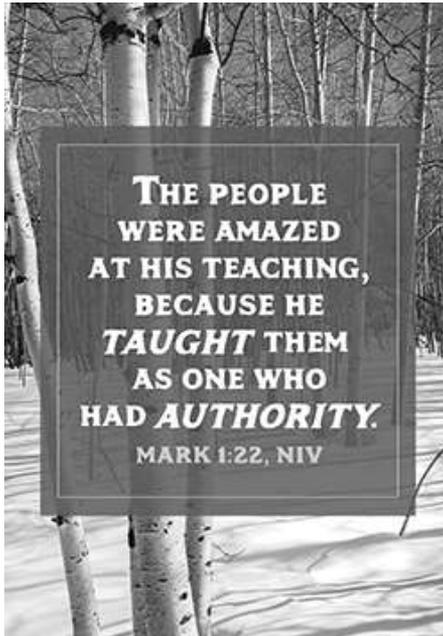
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

“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

January 31, 2021

10:45 AM

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: "Cantabile" ...R.J.Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, gather together like those who sat at Jesus' feet so many years ago.

All: We gather with joy, for we too want to be disciples of Jesus.

Pastor: I tell you, Christ is here with us, calling us now to life and love.

All: Let us praise God for bringing us together, and coming to us in Jesus Christ, Amen.

HYMN: #91 Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Living Christ, Your earthly ministry was full of struggle as well as joy; yet You were faithful in following God's will. Breathe Your Spirit into our lives that we may never fall back from the way of discipleship on the effort of loving. Grant that we may find true joy and peace as we accept the cost of faithful discipleship. For it is in Your name we pray. Amen.

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

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #11 Stand Up and Bless the Lord.

Stand up and bless the Lord, the Lord your God adore; stand up and bless his glorious name, both now and evermore.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 111

Mark 1: 21-28

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Jesus and our Authority"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Tell Me the Old, Old Story" ...W. H. Doane, arr. Smith/Hustad

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #34 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

All that we are, all that we ever hope to be, and all that we acquire or ever hope to acquire we now offer to you, Lord. Do with us and the resources we offer whatever you deem right. They are all yours. We hold nothing back. Thank you for being so kind to us and for letting us enjoy everything that you, in your loving goodness,

have made available to us. We humbly pray now that you will take our offerings, touch them, multiply them as you did the loaves and the fish, and then put them to use for the work of your kingdom. Take who we are and the gifts we bring out into the highways and byways of life to bless those who are less fortunate. Bless them in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER – PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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: #93 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #378 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God vs.1

Create in me a clean heart, O God; Create in me a clean heart, O God; Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with in me.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: Flowers are placed in honor of Susan Wright for the beautiful music she provides each Sunday by Len and Rebecca Kesselring

BULLETINS: Placed in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the many blessings He has bestowed upon the members of Bethany UCC by Len and Rebecca Kesselring

LAY READER: Sue Wright

AUDIO & VIDEO 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! Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY, JANUARY 31 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:45 AM Worship to be recorded

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – Prep for BES Meal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 – Meal At BES, Handbell and Woodwind Rehearsal

5:30 PM Handbells

6:30 PM Woodwinds

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

10:45 AM Worship with Handbells to be recorded

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent out.

Scriptures

Psalm 111 NRSV

Praise for God's Wonderful Works

¹ Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

Mark 1: 21-28 NRSV

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with

us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!”²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

BETHLEHEM EMERGENCY SHELTER

On Wednesday February 3rd, Bethany will serve as hosts. The restrictions at the shelter have limited our participation greatly. I would like to prepare our meal Tuesday at Bethany. We have five people in the kitchen and will practice social distancing. We will heat our meal Wednesday at Christ Church. There will be a team of five to serve and clean up. Don't panic dishwashers as we will be using all paper products. If you are interested in serving this essential service please call me at 610-360-8743 or 610-691-8673. As always bakers are needed. Baked goods can be dropped off at church Monday or Tuesday. Monetary donations will also help to defray the churches cost. This is all new territory and if you have any questions or suggestions please let me know. You can also call the church office and Debbie will pass along messages to me.

Thanks, Wendy Glassic

**Please drop off donations at church and call to volunteer.
Your help is needed!**

SOUP SALE

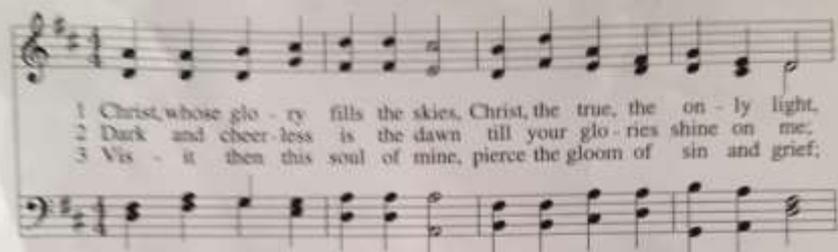
Thank you for your participation in our soup sale. Thanks to Tim, Susan, Cindy, Judy and Debbie for preparing the delicious soups that were sold.

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

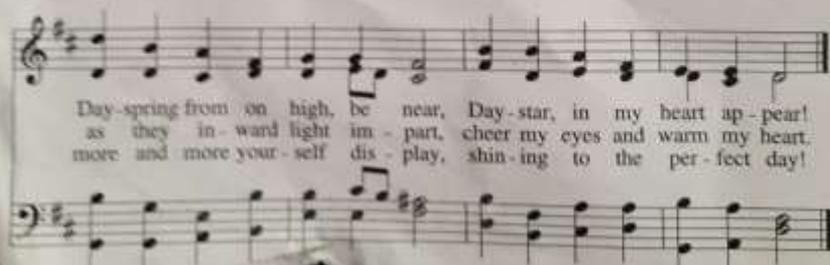
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 91



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the dawn till your glo - ries shine on me;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

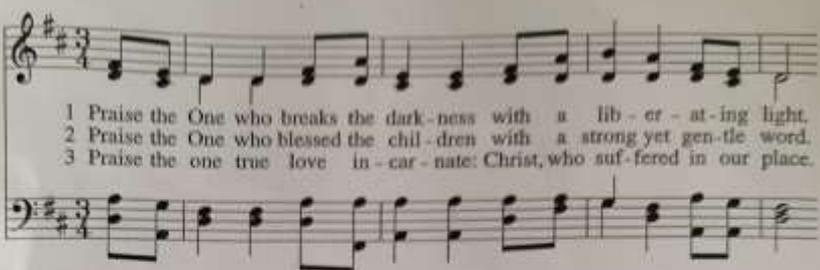


Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o - ver shades of night:
joy-less is the day's re - turn till your mer-cy's beams I see:
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief:

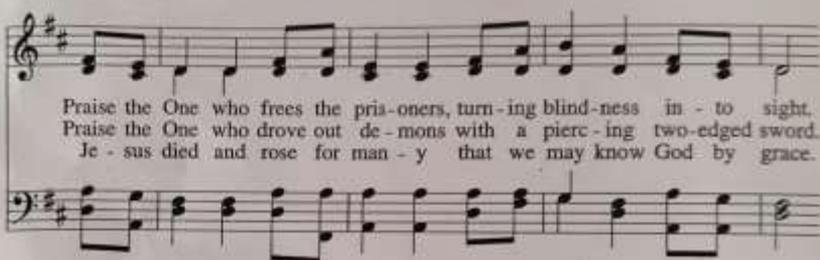


Day-spring from on high, be near, Day-star, in my heart ap - pear!
as they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart,
more and more your - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day!

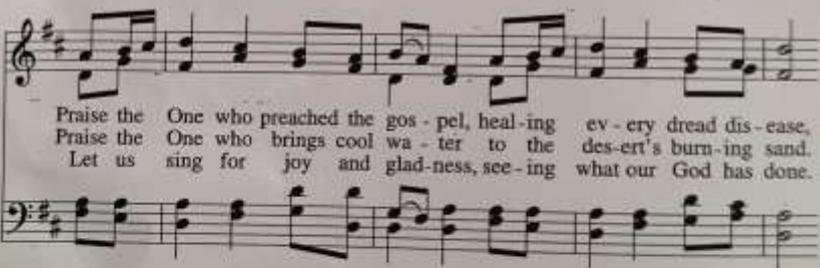
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93



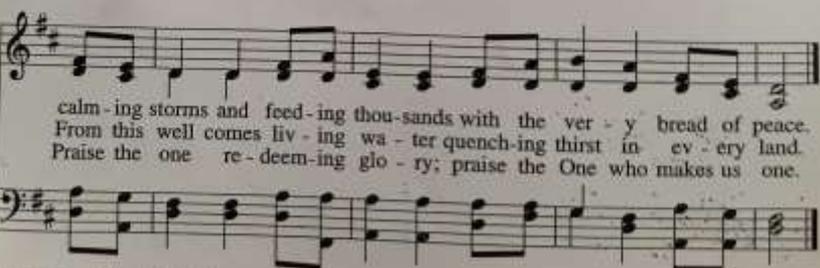
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib-er-at-ing light.
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word.
3 Praise the one true love in-car-nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place.



Praise the One who frees the pria-oners, turn-ing blind-ness in-to sight.
Praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing two-edged sword.
Je-sus died and rose for man-y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos-pel, heal-ing ev-ery dread dis-ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa-ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand.
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver-y bread of peace.
From this well comes liv-ing wa-ter quench-ing thirst in ev-ery land.
Praise the one re-deem-ing glo-ry; praise the One who makes us one.