

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

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



He was transfigured before them ...
and his clothes became dazzling white ...
Mark 9:2-3, NRSV

February 14, 2021
Transfiguration Sunday

“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

February 14, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus, our Lord said: "This is my commandment: Love one another."

All: We come to worship the God who is love, that we may learn to love one another.

Pastor: Jesus Our Lord said: "No longer do I call You to servants; but now I call you my friends."

All: We come to worship the God whose friends we are through Christ. Let us sing praise to God, and live-in love and friendship toward the human family, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: #358 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty and Eternal God, we thank you that you have not left us alone in our sin and despair. Loving us, You have brought us good news and set before us the way of Life. Yet we confess that we have failed to see the

way. In stubborn pride we have spurned your mercy and your help. In selfishness we have turned away those who need us. We have allowed ourselves to be crushed by troubles, as though Christ had not been raised at all. Forgive our faithlessness, and grant that we may know new life, and hope, in the spirit of the resurrection. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Unison) #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.

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

Philippians 3:12-21

Mark 9: 2-9

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "The Language of Love: More Thicker than Forget"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY

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: #245 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #716 God Be with You vs.3

God be with you till we meet again, if life's perils should confound you. God will put his arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: Flowers and Bulletins are placed in honor of Lisa Williams and Tom Hoffert for their dedication to Bethany UCC by Len and Rebecca Kesselring

LAY READER: Jean Fennell

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 SUNDAY, FEBRAURY 14 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Happy Valentine's Day

10:45 AM Worship to be recorded

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – President's Day

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – Ash Wednesday Service

7 PM Service in the Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – First Sunday in Lent

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

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

Philippians 3: 12-21 NRSV

Pressing toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;^[a] but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved,^[b] I do not consider that I have made it my own;^[c] but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly^[d] call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters,^[e] join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship^[f] is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus

Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation^[a] that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,^[b] by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Mark 9: 2-9 NRSV

The Transfiguration

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one^[a] on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,^[b] one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved;^[c] listen to him!” ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Our Sympathy

Kenneth F. Bender, Jr., 72, passed away January 25, 2021, in his home. Kenneth was a longtime member of Bethany and is survived by his sister Pat Hale and two nephews. Please keep them in your prayers.

Please keep Jim Stetler in your prayers as he remains hospitalized at LVHN Muhlenberg.

OOPS!

**I made a mistake in the Beeline under birthdays. Ashley Tarasuk's birthday is February 18th. Sorry Ashley
Aunt Debbie**

BETHLEHEM EMERGENCY SHELTER

A big thank you to all the volunteers of Bethany's BES team. We provided a great hearty meal for a cold winter day. Although we didn't get to serve it, I'm sure it was enjoyed. Again, without the cooks, bakers, donations and those who wanted to help we couldn't have done such a good job!

Thanks, Wendy Glassic

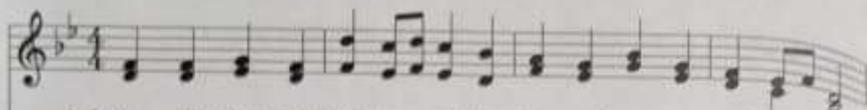
We're Back!

Consistory has made the decision that we will begin having in person services in the sanctuary beginning on Ash Wednesday February 17th at 7pm. Please come and join us as we begin our Lenten Journey. Please mark your calendars for March 7th when we will hold our annual meeting.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the soup sale we raised \$270. We currently have Easter Candy info. Call the office if you want a packet.



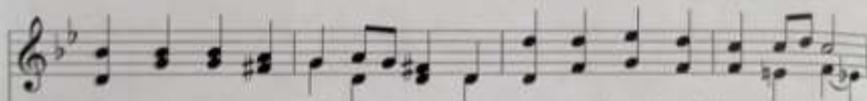
358 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



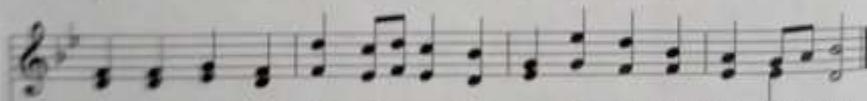
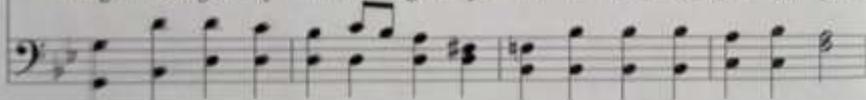
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast,
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive,
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be.



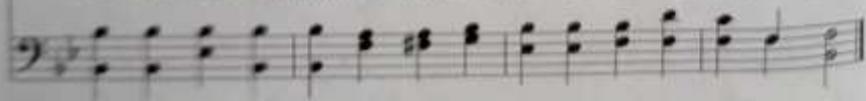
fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown,
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest,
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave,
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee.



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart,
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty,
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love,
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



245 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Unison



1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our



ho - ly place, where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh - joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, we, like Pe - ter, find it tempt - ing to re



to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as - sur - ance
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with won - der
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us cour - age



that our faith is not in vain, search - ing like those
 how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with gar - ments
 to pro - claim what we pro - fess, that our dai - ly



first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured the God and com - plete.
 lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

