

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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



February 17th, 2021

Ash Wednesday

“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 17, 2021

7 PM

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: Christus, der ist mein Leben ...J. Pachelbel
(For Me to Live Is Jesus)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Rend your hearts and not your garments; return to our God.

C: For God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: We know our misdeeds, and our sin is ever before us.

C: Wash away our guilt and cleanse us from our sin. Let us worship God!

HYMN: #252 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

CALL TO CONFESSION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION
(*unison*)

Gracious God, we can hardly believe that You have given us life and salvation as a free gift in Jesus Christ! We confess that we continually try to carry the burden of sin and salvation on our own shoulders, rather than trusting Your forgiveness and seeking new life in Your Spirit. Help us to place our trust in You, and to accept the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Each will use the Q-tip provided to make the sign of the cross on the forehead.)

Pastor: Let us turn from our sins and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #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 within me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51:1-12

Joel 2: 12-16

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Pastor: This is the Good News

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

SERMON: "Beginning Again"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY "In dich hab ich gehoffet, Herr ...J. C. Bach
(In Thee, Lord, Have I Put My Trust)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #470 "Savior Thy Dying Love" vs. 1
**Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me,
Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from Thee;
In love my soul would bow, my heart fulfils its vow,
Some offering brings Thee now, Something for Thee.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND PRAYER OF
CONSECRATION

(Each shall administer to themselves the wafer and cup provided.)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

Eternal and Loving God, You satisfy us with the food and drink of Eternal Life. We thank You for this sacrament of Love and Grace and pray that we may offer unto You our lives as living sacrifices. Walk with us these forty days of cross bearing service through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN #143 “Forty days and forty nights”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE.

Our worship ends, our service begins!

Ushers: Volunteers

Lay reader: Rebecca Kesselring

Bethany Worship Service Digital Audio Recordings are available. If interested contact Bill Rumble at wrumble@ptd.net.

www.facebook.com/BethanyUCCBethlehem. 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!

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.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51: 1-12

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- 5 Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 6 You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence,

and do not take your holy spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.

Joel 2: 12-16

12 Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?
15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
16 gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Matthew 6:1-6 (NRSV)

Concerning Almsgiving

6 “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

Concerning Prayer

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Fasting

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

Concerning Treasures

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust^[b] consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust^[c] consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

10:45 A Worship in the Sanctuary

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

Upcoming Fundraisers:



Easter Candy from Chocolates on Broadway with assorted eggs and some of the old favorites. Orders and money due by Sunday, February 28 with the delivery date as March 21. Checks payable to “Chocolates on Broadway”

Take out Lenten fish dinner on Friday March 19 from 4:30 P to 6:30 P featuring fresh baked or fried haddock, baked potato, pickled cabbage, & dessert. Cost is \$12. Make any checks payable to “Bethany UCC.” Tickets are available. Contact the office.

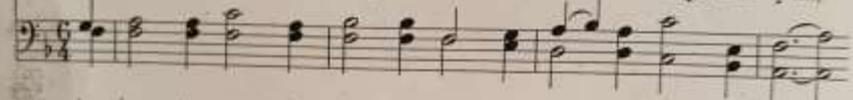
Nut Sale Orders Due March 8 and Nut making will take place on Sat. March 13 and Mon. March 15. Peanuts are \$3 and cashews and almonds are \$5 Call Debbie @ 484-358-3735 to order.

ASH  WEDNESDAY

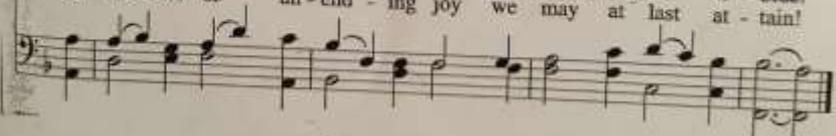
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 252



- 1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
- 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic - tory win,
- 3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
- 4 And thro' these days of pen - i - tence, and thro' your Pas - sion - tide,
- 5 A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,



teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con-quer sin.
to die to self, and so to live by your most ho-ly Word.
for-ev-er-more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a-bide.
an Eas-ter of un-end-ing joy we may at last at-tain!



Our Lord Jesus Christ

GEORGE HUNT SMYTHAN, 1826

7. 7. 7. 7.

AUS DER TIEFE (HINLEIN)
Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch, 1677*Rather slowly*

1. For - ty days and for - ty nights Thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
 2. Shall not we Thy sor - row share, And from earth - ly joys ab - stain,
 3. And if Sa - tan, vex - ing sore, Flesh or spir - it should as - sail,
 4. Keep, O keep us, Sav - our dear, Ev - er con - stant by Thy side;

For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed,
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Glad with Thee to suf - fer pain?
 Thou, his van - quish - er be - fore, Grant we may not faint nor fail.
 That with Thee we may ap - pear At the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide. A-MEN.