

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

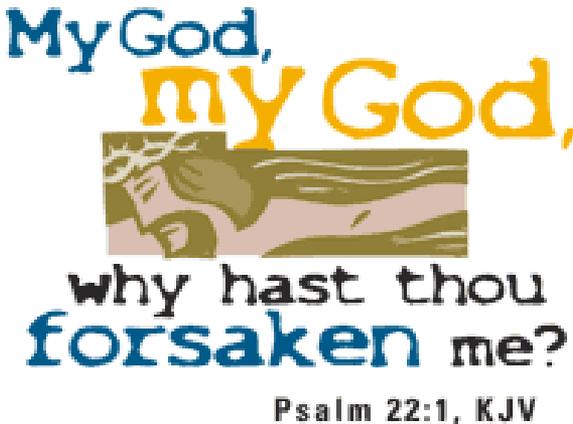
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent

“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

March 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: "Highland Cathedral" Bagpipe and Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Surely, He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;

All: Yet we accounted Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Pastor: But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed by our iniquities.

All: Upon Him was the punishment that makes us whole, and by His stripes we are healed!

HYMN: #425 Christ Beside Me (Gaelic Melody)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we fail to be Your messengers of forgiveness and hope in our world. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may bear our crosses faithfully. Uphold us by Your grace and love and give us the strength to endure the cruelties of our world. In Your name and through Your Son, Jesus, 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 #736 Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 107: 1-3,17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3: 14-21

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: **“My God, Why?”**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS (One Great Hour of Sharing)

OFFERTORY: Be Thou My Vision...Trad. Irish Melody arr. T. Billingsley Piano, Organ and Flute

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #470 “Savior Thy Dying Love”

**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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Generous God whose love knows no boundaries, bless this offering, we ask. We dedicate all that we give, to your loving purpose; bringing in those who have been cast out; standing strong on behalf of those who are weak; speaking out Your Word of joy and justice for all

people. May Your loving realm increase! In Jesus name. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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: #502 Be Thou My Vision (Irish Melody)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #422 Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

POSTLUDE: The High Road to Gairlock arr. S. Walker

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: In Honor of our Lone Bagpiper Ashley Tarasuk, you have brought joy to us today.

BULLETINS: In Honor of Rebecca, Sue and Meghann. What joy you bring with your music.

GREETERS: Dan and Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan and Margy Sabetti, Tom Wright, Bob Ruhe

LAY READER: Dan Sabetti

Scriptures

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 NRSV

Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
- ³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- ¹⁷ Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
- ¹⁸ they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
- ¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
- ²⁰ he sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.
- ²¹ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
- ²² And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Ephesians 2: 1-10 NRSV

From Death to Life

² You were dead through the trespasses and sins ² in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³ All of us once lived

among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ^[a]—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

John 3:14-21 NRSV

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their

deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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, MARCH 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

930AM Adult Bible Study DVD “The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah” in Fellowship Hall

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with offering for One Great Hour of Sharing as well as Special Music with an Irish flair!

MONDAY, MARCH 15 - Nut Making

9AM Fellowship Hall

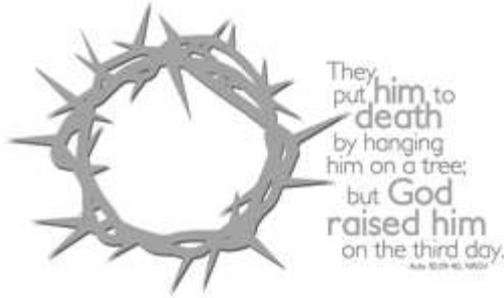
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 – Handbell Rehearsal

5:30PM Rehearsal in the Sanctuary followed by Woodwind Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

930AM Adult Bible Study DVD “The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah” in Fellowship Hall

10:45AM Worship with Handbells in the Sanctuary with Joyful Noise Offering which benefits Alzheimer Research



Pastor Todd invites you to join others at Bethany's Fellowship Hall on Sundays at 930, beginning March 7. Featured will be an inspiring DVD Series on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah (Jesus)The presentations were filmed in location at the places Jesus lived. Join us!

Check the back for an updated list of Homebound as well as those who are in service to our country or in college. Drop them a line it will cheer you up as well as brighten their days.

Some changes were made to the Usher/Reader List please pick one up in the rear of the sanctuary.

Upcoming Fundraisers:



Easter Candy from Chocolates on Broadway will be delivered on March 21.

Easter Flowers are available to order until March 21. We will be ordering from **Cierech Greenhouses**. Since the poinsettias we ordered were beautiful I look forward to enjoying the daffodils and tulips we decorate the altar with on Easter Sunday. A pot of daffodils will be \$9 and a pot of tulips with 6 blooms will be \$7. Order forms are in the back of the sanctuary. Please help yourself.



Joyful Noise for the month of March will be our matching funds for Alzheimer's Research.

Once again, we will be collecting for Alzheimer's Disease Research during the month of March. The official day for collection will be at the Joyful Noise offering on Sunday, March 21nd. Our gifts will once again be matched (doubled) by an anonymous donor. Last year we raised over \$1,000 for this worthy cause and one very near and dear to our hearts here at Bethany Church. Checks need to be made out to Bethany UCC with Alzheimer's written in the memo. Bethany will send one check to the organization. Thank you in advance for your most generous donations. Any questions can be directed to Sue Wright. P.S. If you are not able to be in attendance on March 21nd, your donation will be accepted any time before that date in the offering plate or through the church office.

Thank
You!



Many thanks to our bagpiper Ashley Tarasuk for her musical contribution to the Celtic music theme on this Sunday before St. Patrick's Day. Ashley is a piper with the Liberty High School Grenadier Marching Band. Many thanks as well to Meghann Wright on Flute and Rebecca Kesselring on Piano during our morning's offertory.

425

Christ Beside Me

Unison C

C/E Dm7/F G7 F/C C

1 Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me,
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me,
 4 Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me,

C Em Am C/E Am/F# Gsus G7

Christ be - hind me— King of my heart,
 Christ all a - round me— shield in the strife;
 Christ be on all tongues tell - ing of me;
 Christ be - hind me— King of my heart;

C F Dm7 C/E Am D/F#

Christ with - in me, Christ be - low me,
 Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my sit - ting,
 Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that see me,
 Christ with - in me, Christ be - low me,

Em/G C F G7 C

Christ a - bove me— nev - er to part.
 Christ in my ris - ing— light of my life.
 in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.
 Christ a - bove me— nev - er to part.

Be Thou My Vision

502

1 Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart,
 2 Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word,
 3 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.