

# 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](mailto:bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com)

**Web address:** [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



March 7, 2021

Third 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 7, 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: "Holy is the Lord" ...arr. Mc Chesney  
Handbell Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

**All: But one in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning.**

Pastor: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**All: Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe and receive God's love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN: #257 What Wondrous Love Is This

## CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, You have given us the law of Moses and the teachings of Jesus to direct us in the way of life. You offer us Your Holy Spirit, so that we can be born to new**

**life as Your children. Yet, O God, we confess that the ways of death have a strong attraction, and that we often succumb to their lure. Give us the vision and courage to choose and nurture life, that we may receive Your blessing. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #375 Lord, Have Mercy  
**Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

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

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #270 O How He Loves  
You and Me

**O how he loves you and me, O how he loves you and me; he gave his life what more could he give? O how he loves you, O how he loves me, O how he loves you and me!**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Family Love"

MISSION MOMENT: "Letting LOVE Grow in Nicaragua"

Presented by Bev Rumble

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Near the Cross" ...W.H. Doane, arr. D. Hustad

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.**

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: #479 Near the Cross

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: Day by Day

**Day by day Dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly,**

**Follow thee more nearly, Day by day.**

POSTLUDE

Please remain for the Annual Congregational Meeting

***Our worship ends, our service begins!***



FLOWERS: Available

BULLETINS: Available

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring

LAY READER: Sue Wright

ALTAR GUILD: Margy Sabetti

The new schedule for those who greet, usher, and read are in the back of the sanctuary.

## **Scriptures**

### **1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 NRSV**

#### **Christ the Power and Wisdom of God**

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness

of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

## **John 2: 13-22 NRSV**

### **Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**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](mailto: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 7 – Third 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 followed by the Annual Meeting

### **MONDAY, MARCH 8- Nut orders due**

Call Debbie @ 484-358-3735

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 – Handbell Rehearsal**

5:30PM Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 11- Consistory**

7pm Snyder Chapel

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 13 – Nut Prep and Time Change**

9am Fellowship Hall

Don't forget to turn your clock's ahead!

### **NEXT 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



**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!**

## Upcoming Fundraisers:



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

**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 or see me on Sunday in the narthex. You will schedule your pick-up time when you purchase your tickets. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

**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. Judy and Susan Wuchter will be joining us on Saturday and Judy has offered to provide lunch.

**Martellucci’s Gift Cards** Will be available for order today Sunday March, 7. See Margy Sabetti in the Narthex to place your order. Gift cards are available in \$25 dollar increments with \$5 from each card going to the church.

**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 21<sup>nd</sup>. 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 21<sup>nd</sup>, your donation will be accepted any time before that date in the offering plate or through the church office.

**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.**

## *Prayer for the Church*

Make us, O Lord, a church, strong enough to know when we are weak, and brave enough to face ourselves when we are afraid; a church who will be proud and unbending in honest disappointment... humble, gentle and compassionate in successful mission and ministry.

Make us a church whose wishbone will not be where our backbone should be; but rather a "body of Christ" who will know You and that to know ourselves is the foundation stone of Godly knowledge and spiritual wisdom.

Guide us, we pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let us learn to stand up in the storm; here let us learn the difference between the gift of Godly righteousness and the pride of self-righteousness.

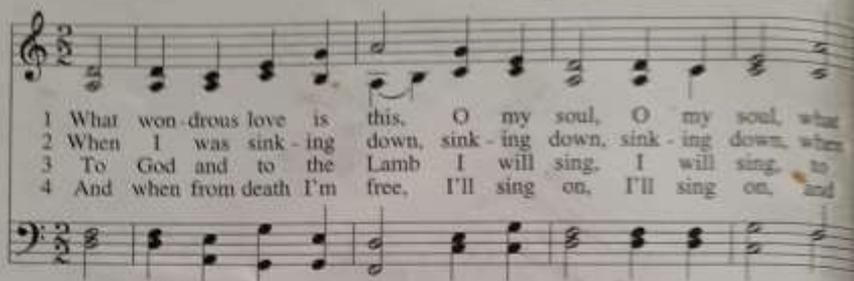
Make us a community of believers whose hearts will be clean, whose goals will be high; a church who will master itself before we seek to master others; who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; who will reach into the future, yet never forget our past.

And after all these things, O Lord, give us humility and understanding so we might always ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

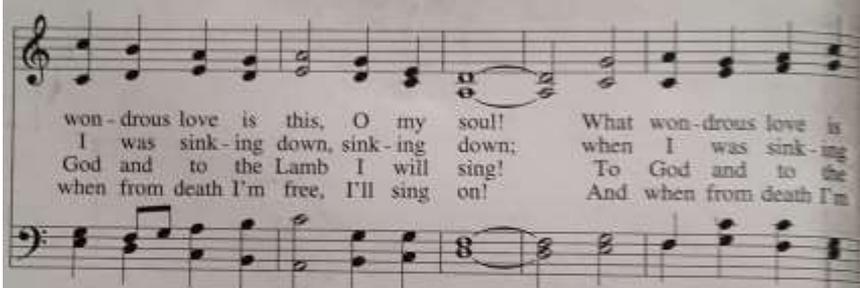
Remind us of the simplicity of greatness, the mind of Godly wisdom, the meekness of true strength and the gift of redemption and salvation offered to all through the cross, the death and the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Then we, your church, will dare to whisper, "Your kingdom is coming, your will is being done on earth and your church is truly an instrument of peace and grace." AMEN.

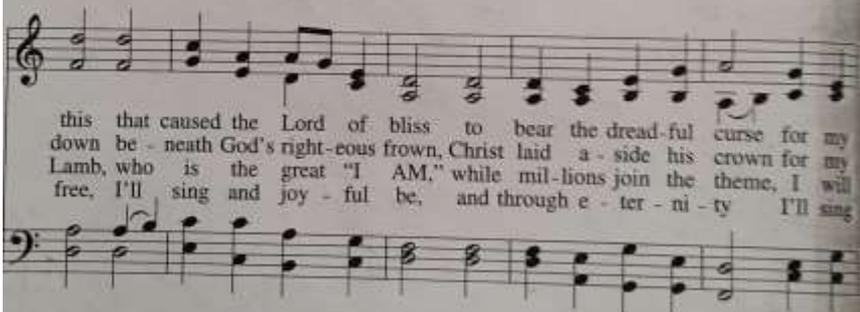
## What Wondrous Love Is This



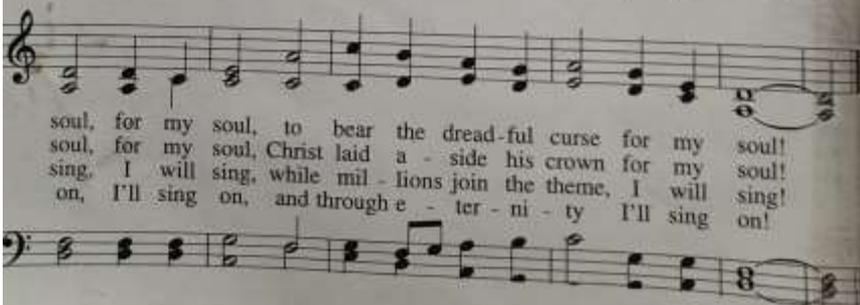
1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what  
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down; when I was sink-ing  
God and to the Lamb I will sing! To God and to the  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm



this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
down be-neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my  
Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will  
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul!  
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!  
on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

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## Near the Cross

F Bb/F F C7 Dm Bb F F/C C

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross; there a pre - cious foun - tain,  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me,  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me,  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

F Bb/F F C7 Dm Bb F/C C C7 F

free to all, a heal - ing stream, flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain,  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me,  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me,  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

## Refrain

F Bb F Bb/F F F/C C

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er.

F Gm/F F A7/E Dm Bb F/C C C7 F

till my rap - tured soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.