

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

“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

April 11, 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: "Sonatina" ...W.A. Mozart, arr. H. Voxman
Saxophone - Meghann Wright

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Springtime changes are bursting forth around us.

People: The earth awakens from winter with a display of wondrous color.

Pastor: The cycle of living and dying continues.

People: As it has for ages past and will for ages to come.

Pastor: Lent has passed and the celebration of Easter Sunday is over.

**All: But the message of new life, new awakenings, and new possibilities remains with us. Glory to God!
Alleluia!**

HYMN: # 299 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, power of life, we praise You that You have not abandoned us to the living death of sin and despair, but that, with Jesus Christ, You have lifted us up from the grave. Grant that we might live in newness

of life, that we might ourselves know the power of resurrection, now and in the world to come; for it is in the name of the risen Christ that 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: #118 “Lord of the Dance” vs.5

They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that’ll never, never, die; I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

REFRAIN: Dance, then, where-ever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I’ll lead you all where-ever you may be, and I’ll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Acts 4: 32-35

I John 1:1 – 2:2

John 20: 19-31

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “Let Me See Your Hands”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “We Are An Offering/Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know” ...L. Bergquist

Ask ye what great thing I know That delights and stirs me so? What the high reward I win? Whose the name I glory in? Jesus Christ the crucified.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #34 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of love, we offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts and financial gifts as a sign of our love for You and the world. We ask Your blessing on the gifts where You meet us in our suffering, and raise us up, so that all may come to know of Your abiding love. 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: #290 The Strife is O’er

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #305 “He Is Lord”

“He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!”

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS are sponsored by Len and Rebecca Kesselring

BULLETINS are sponsored by Debbie Brown

GREETERS: Tom Hoffert & Len Kesselring

USHERS: Volunteers

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

Scriptures

Acts 4: 32-35 NRSV

The Believers Share Their Possessions

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

I John 1:1 – 2:2 NRSV

The Word of Life

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with

the Father and was revealed to us—³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

God Is Light

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Christ Our Advocate

² My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20:19 - 31 NRSV

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the

disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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.



Congratulations Bethany Members! You raised \$1,432.68 for Alzheimer's Disease Research. We broke our record and this gift amount will be matched. A heartfelt thank you to all who gave so generously.

One Great Hour of Sharing offerings total \$140 as of this week there are still envelopes if you want to contribute.

Mark your calendars for Saturday April 24th as we again host a breakfast in Fellowship Hall. On the menu will be the Rumble's world-famous scrambled eggs with potato patty and delicious link sausage. There will also be juice, coffee and tea. Tickets will be \$7 for Adults and \$5 for Children 5 and under. There will be two seating's: 9 and 10. Tickets are available see Bev Rumble. If you are unable to attend donations toward expenses are appreciated.

Don't forget to sign up in the Narthex to participate in Spring Cleaning Bethany. There are many projects with multiple skill sets needed.

Many thanks to Meghann Wright for playing the saxophone in our morning prelude!

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, APRIL 11 – Second Sunday in Easter

930AM Adult Bible Study DVD “The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah” in Fellowship Hall
10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with special music in our prelude.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

4-8PM Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

4-8PM Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 – Handbell Rehearsal

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

4-8PM Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

4-8PM Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

SATURDAY, APRIL 17 PNEC SPRING MEETING

Virtual

NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 28 – Palm Sunday

930AM Adult Bible Study DVD “The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah” in Fellowship Hall
10:45AM Worship with Communion

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright 299

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright,
 2 His ris - en flesh with in - dience glowed;
 3 O Je - sus, strong in gen - tle - ness,
 4 Come, ris - en Christ, with us a - bide

the sun shone out with fair - er light,
 his wound - ed hands and feet he showed;
 come now your - self, our hearts pos - sess,
 in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide;

when, to their long - ing eyes re - stored,
 those scars their sol - emn wit - ness gave
 that we may give you all our days
 your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield

the glad a - pos - tles saw their Lord,
 that Christ was ris - en from the grave,
 the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise:
 from ev - ery weap - on death can wield.

WORDS: Latin hymn, 5th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866), alt.
 MUSIC: Trier manuscript, 15th c.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621);
 harm. George R. Woodward (1848-1934)

PIERRE NOBES
 L.M.

The Strife Is O'er

Refrain (before verse 1 and after verse 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done,
 2 The powers of death have done their worst,
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped,
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell,

now is the vic - tor's tri - umph won; O let the
 and Je - sus has his foes dis - persed: let shouts of
 Christ ris - es glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry
 the bars from heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of

to Refrain after verse 4

song of praise be sung. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!

