

# 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



May 16, 2021

Seventh 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

May 16, 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, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" ...arr. M.L. Thompson    Choir chimes and Handbells

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us praise the God who formed mountains and created the wind.

**People: Let us sing to the One who made the stars, who turns the deep darkness into morning and day into night.**

Leader: Let us turn to God, hating what is evil and loving what is just.

**People: So, may justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-lasting stream. Amen.**

HYMN: #583. You Call Us, Lord

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**O God, in mystery and silence You are present in our lives bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank You that You do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive Your unseen Hand in the unfolding of our**

**lives, and to attend to the urging guidance of Your Spirit, that we may know the joy of being Yours. 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: “Awesome God” #658  
(No repeat)

**Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power and love - Our God is an awesome God!**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 1

1 John 5: 9-13

John 17: 1-26

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: “Parting Prayer”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “O Worship the King” (Intermezzo on “Lyons” tune) ...melody J. Haydn, arr. D. Hustad

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)

**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: #580 We Are Called to be God's People

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #395 The Bond of Love. Vs. 1

**We are one in the bond of love; we are one in the bond of love. We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God; we are one in the bond of love.**

POSTLUDE

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



FLOWERS are sponsored by Len & Rebecca Kesselring  
BULLETINS are in Honor of John Robert Lasso Jr's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday by Nana

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto & Lisa Williams

USHERS: Len Kesselring, Lisa Williams and Volunteers

LAY READER: Sue Wright

## Scriptures

### Psalm 1 NRSV

#### The Two Ways

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

<sup>2</sup> but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup> for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

### I John 5: 9-13 NRSV

<sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup> Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

<sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

## **Epilogue**

<sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

## **John 17: 1-26 NRSV**

### **Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I

protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

<sup>20</sup> “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **TODAY SUNDAY, MAY 16**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with Handbells

### **TUESDAY, MAY 18 – ELECTION DAY**

7am -8pm      Don't Forget to Vote  
Remember Bethany is a polling place

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 19 – Handbell Rehearsal**

5:30PM      In the Sanctuary, brief Orff run thru  
6:30PM      Brass Ensemble

### **NEXT SUNDAY MAY 23 PENTECOST WEAR RED!**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

Deadline for June Beeline is May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Don't forget to sign up in the Narthex to participate in Spring Cleaning Bethany. There are many projects with multiple skill sets needed. See or call Dick Roberts 610-865-0322**

**We are looking for 3-5 volunteers to rummage through items in the downstairs Sunday School room at the 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. end of the building. Please call the church office.**

**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.



# You Call Us, Lord

1 You call us, Lord, to be a peo - ple set a - part,  
 2 You call us, Lord, to care for self and neigh - bor too,  
 3 You call us, Lord, to be good stew - ards of the earth,  
 4 You call us, Lord, to serve: to die that we may live,

to feel with thought - ful mind and think with ten - der heart.  
 to take the risk, and dare to show what love can do,  
 to tend it as a place of bless - ed - ness and worth.  
 to know we best re - ceive when joy - ful - ly we give.

*Refrain*

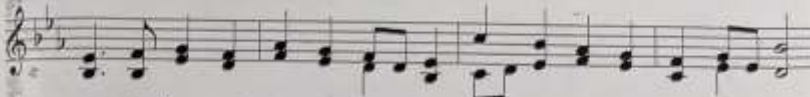
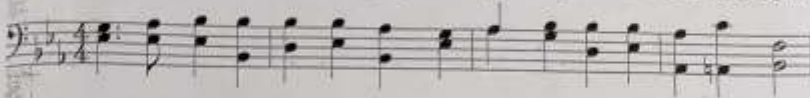
Thus cho - sen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your

un - fail - ing grace to make us e - qual to the task.

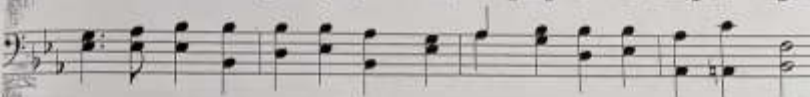
## We Are Called to Be God's People 580



- 1 We are called to be God's peo - ple, show - ing by our lives his grace,  
 2 We are called to be God's ser - vants, work - ing in his world to - day;  
 3 We are called to be God's proph - ets, speak - ing for the truth and right,



one in heart and one in spir - it, sign of hope for all the race.  
 tak - ing his own task up - on us, all his sa - cred words o - bey.  
 stand - ing firm for god - ly jus - tice, bring - ing e - vil things to light.



Let us show how he has changed us, and re - made us as his own,  
 Let us rise, then, to his sum - mons, ded - i - cate to him our all,  
 Let us seek the cour - age need - ed, our high call - ing to ful - fill,



let us share our life to - geth - er as we shall a - round his throne.  
 that we may be faith - ful ser - vants, quick to an - swer now his call.  
 that the world may know the bless - ing of the do - ing of God's will.

