

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



May 2, 2021

Fifth 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 2, 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: "O Worship the King" (Intermezzo on Lyons tune) ...melody J. Haydn, arr. D. Hustad

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come to Christ, that living stone, rejected by the world, but in God's sight chosen and precious.

**People: We have responded to Christ's call, and seek to be built into a spiritual house, a living reminder of God's presence on earth.**

Leader: Once we were no people, but now we are God's people, called out of the darkness into God's marvelous light. Therefore, we sing with the church in all ages:

**All: Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer. By your mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Amen.**

HYMN: #496 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms "

CALL OF CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Most loving God, we can scarcely comprehend the scope of your forgiveness, we can hardly believe your amazing care for us. We confess that often we close ourselves off from your saving presence; and in our pride, we withhold forgiveness from other people. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, grant us the assurance of your love. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for your grace which overflows with love toward others. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison) #291

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord, Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

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

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #706 "I Come with Joy"  
vs.1

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in  
love laid down for me.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 37: 1-9

John 13: 31-35

Romans 5: 1-5

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Be Encouraged - P. U. S. H."

OFFERING INVITATION

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Me/ Jesus the Very Thought of Thee" ... Bradbury/ Dykes, arr. W.J. Auld  
Two pianos - four hands

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: #419 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #711 Savior Again to Your Dear Name. Verse 4

**Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life: comfort in sorrow, courage in the strife; then, when your voice shall make our conflict cease, call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.**

POSTLUDE

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



FLOWERS are sponsored by Len and Rebecca Kesselring

BULLETINS are sponsored by Debbie Brown

GREETERS: Gail Correll

USHERS: John Knoll, Gail Correll, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Gail Correll

## **Scriptures**

### **Psalm 37: 1-9 NRSV**

#### **Exhortation to Patience and Trust of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- <sup>2</sup> for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.
- <sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- <sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.
- <sup>6</sup> He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.
- <sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- <sup>9</sup> For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

## **John 13: 31-35 NRSV**

### **The New Commandment**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now, I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

## **Romans 5: 1-5 NRSV**

### **Results of Justification**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not

only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**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.

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

*Thank you to Rebecca Kesselring for her part in this morning's offertory.*

*Thank you to Matt Miller for helping to lead the service this morning.*

*Today we welcome Pastor Bob Mease to the pulpit. Here is a little bit about him in his own words. Thanks for leading us this morning.*

**When one accepts the Lord, it opens a whole new world. Pastor Bob did as a teenager, and Jesus has blessed him in so many ways.**

**Graduating from Pitt and DeSales led him to careers in industrial research, integrated circuit manufacturing, satellite navigation, mgmt. of large business programs, and teaching at graduate school and high schools. He served as an officer in the Army Reserve.**

**His beautiful wife Janis, agreed to marry him 47 years ago, and they have 2 wonderful daughters and 5 grandchildren who keep them busy.**

**He sings with the Zion Choral Group, if anyone is interested in joining, and Oh – he even played Dart Baseball against the famous Bethany Dart Team!**

**Jesus touched him again, and he entered the ministry, pastoring for 6 years at St. Marks UCC in Allentown. He is now retired.**

**His passion is to tell others what Jesus has done in his life and what Jesus can do for you. If you are willing to listen, just ask, he has many true-life experiences to share.**

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **TODAY SUNDAY, MAY 2 – Fifth Sunday in Easter**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with Guest Pastor  
Bob Mease

### **MONDAY, MAY 3**

4-8PM              Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

### **TUESDAY, MAY 4**

4-8PM              Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 5 – Handbell Rehearsal**

5:30PM            In the Sanctuary

### **THURSDAY, MAY 6**

4-8PM              Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

### **FRIDAY, MAY 7**

4-8PM              Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

### **SATURDAY, MAY 8**

10AM                Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

### **NEXT SUNDAY MAY 9 – MOTHER'S DAY**

9:30AM            Adult Class in Fellowship Hall

10:45AM          Worship in the Sanctuary





Let's throw a card shower for some of our members who could use a lift! Below are addresses for three ladies who could use some sunshine in their lives.

Lillian Connors  
Bethlehem Manor  
815 Pennsylvania Ave. Room 102-B  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Ruth Bowers  
218 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bethlehem, PA 18018-5107

Sharon Haines  
1541 Center Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018-2506



# 496 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim-way, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,  
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

*Refrain*

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,  
 lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing on Je-sus,  
 lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on  
 lean-ing on Je-sus,

ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

# My Faith Looks Up to Thee 419

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

part a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
lead a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side,  
trans - re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

*Thanks for worshipping with  
us.*

*See you next week, it's  
Mother's Day.*