

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

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



May 23, 2021
Pentecost Sunday

“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 23, 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: "Jubilate" ...D. Wolford Piano/Organ duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us worship the Lord, Who in wisdom has created the world.

People: Let us worship the Lord, Who gives good things to the creation.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord, Who sends forth the Spirit to the world.

People: Let us worship the Lord and sing praises to God as long as we live.

HYMN: #492 Spirit of the Living God

Brass Quartet accompaniment

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God, Whose grace surrounds us, Whose Spirit sustains us, we confess that we are reluctant to be Your disciples. We confess that we neglect the Spirit's gifts in us. We confess that we are more concerned with position and privilege. Forgive us our neglect and presumption, our self-centered understanding of the gospel. Help us to be Your Spirit-filled people, working

**together as a body of Christ here and in Your world.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #461 Breathe on Me, Breath of God. Vs. 3

Breathe on me, breath of God, so that your heart is mine, until this earthly part of me glows with your fire divine.

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

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #706 I Come with Joy vs. 4

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Romans 8: 22-27

John 15: 26-16:15

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

CONGREGATIONAL SPOKEN RESPONSE: "Do You Not Know?" ...Anon. Non-tuned Orff percussion

**DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE,
AND THAT GOD'S SPIRIT DWELLS IN YOU?**

SERMON: "God the Paraclete"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "The Spacious Firmament" ...Haydn
Brass Quartet

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (see page 11)

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: #330 Come Down, O Love Divine
Brass Quartet accompaniment

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go out into the world,

Cong.: And labor to bring forth new life.

Pastor: Dream dreams, pursue visions

Cong.: And speak of God's goodness

Pastor: May the God who breathed life into creation

Cong.: Be our delight and give hope to our time

Pastor: And may the Holy Spirit set our hearts ablaze

Cong.: As we are called to be witnesses of God's Word and Love.

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #132 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Vs. 1

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart, free it from sin, through all its pulses move. Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are, and make me love you as I ought to love.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS are placed in memory of my parents Mr. and Mrs. Donald Young by Deborah Young

BULLETINS are in Honor of Ted and Marion Hendricks' 66th Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on May 21st.

GREETERS: Debbie Brown

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Len Kesselring

A sincere thank you to our brass quartet, Lisa Williams, Meghann Wright, Tim Rumble and Pastor Todd....and to Rebecca Kesselring on piano. Your musical talent during this celebration of Pentecost is greatly appreciated.

Scriptures

Romans 8: 22-27 NRSV

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

John 15: 26-16:15 NRSV

²⁶ “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹⁶ “I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so, they are offering worship to God. ³ And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

The Work of the Spirit

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who

sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'
⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, MAY 23

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion
Strengthen the Church offering

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 – Handbell Rehearsal

5:30PM In the Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY MAY 30 Memorial Day Honored

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary, wear your red, white
and blue.
Joyful Noise will be collected to benefit
Tunnels to Towers Organization

Deadline for June Beeline is May 24th.

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

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.



GET YOUR PEANUTS, CASHEWS, AND ALMONDS HERE!

Mark your calendars! Orders will be due on Monday June 7th. We will be preparing nuts on Saturday June 12th and Monday June 14th. We will start working @ 9am both days. This will probably be the last time we are making nuts so you may want to stock up. Peanuts are \$3. Cashews and Almonds are \$5. Call Debbie Brown at 484-358-3735. Everyone is invited to help on nut preparation days. (Attention Youth – this can be Community Service time)

Spirit of the Living God

F Gm D/A Gm F/C C F

1 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;
2 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, move a - mong us all;

Gm D/A Gm F/C C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me,
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:

B \flat F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
hum - ble, car - ing, self - less, shar - ing.

F Gm D/A Gm F/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.
Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fill our lives with love.

Come Down, O Love Divine

PENTECOST

330

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek out this soul of mine
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong with which the soul will long

and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing:
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing:
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing:

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
 and let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 for none can guess God's grace, till love cre - ates a place,

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

WORDS: Buzco da Siena (d. 1414); v. Richard Frederick Littlehale (1833-1890), alt.

DOWN AMPNEY
 2 & 11 15

An Order for Communion

Invitation:

- M: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdelene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.
- C: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

Call to Prayer:

- M: God be with you.
C: And also with you.
M: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to God.
M: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution:

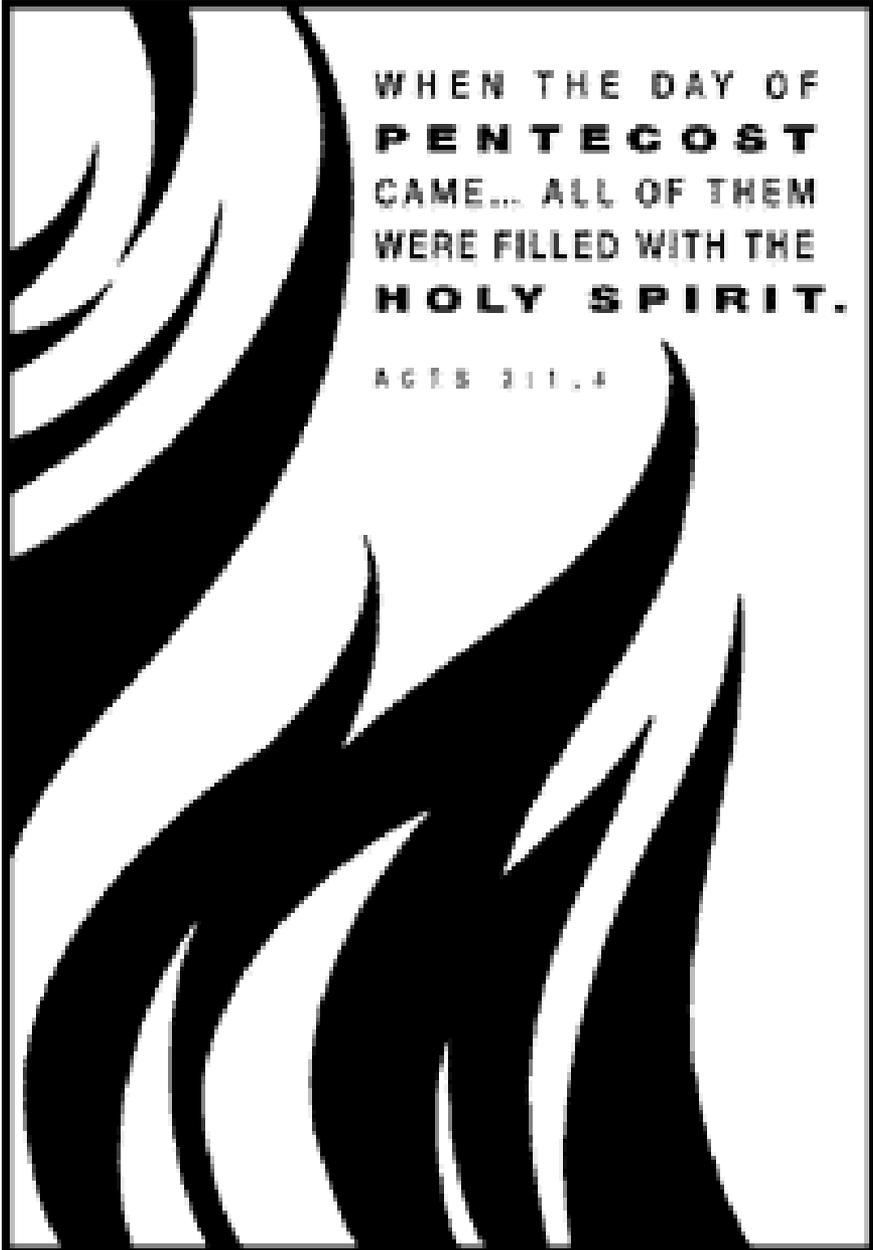
Congregational Response: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know You as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

The Distribution of the Elements (wine/grape juice is offered)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison):

We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

****Please fill out a Communion Card***

A stylized, high-contrast black and white graphic of flames or tongues of fire. The flames are depicted as thick, curved, and pointed shapes, rising from the bottom and left side of the frame. The background is white, and the flames are solid black, creating a stark, graphic effect.

WHEN THE DAY OF
PENTECOST
CAME... ALL OF THEM
WERE FILLED WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

ACTS 2:1-4