

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

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



May 30, 2021 Trinity/Memorial Day 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 30, 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

JOYFUL NOISE: Tunnels to Towers

PRELUDE: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" ... arr. J. Innes
Piano/organ duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A mighty wind has blown.

People: And tongues of fire have danced!

Leader: The presence of God's Holy Spirit is with us.

People: Just as Jesus Christ promised.

Leader: The presence of the Spirit moves and gathers us into community.

People: Let us marvel at God's power, working in and through us.

HYMN: #74 Eternal Father Strong to Save

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Lord God, we thank You for the ways You reveal Yourself to us in the life of Jesus and by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We praise You for Your creative goodness, Your saving grace and Your power to lead us

into Your truth. Bless us as we worship You this day that You have made. 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 (unison): #654 “Holy Ground “

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around. Let us praise Jesus now; We are standing in his presence on holy ground.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 29

Romans 8: 12-17

John 3: 1-17

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “The Windmill and the Wind”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” (Battle Hymn)19th C. American Folk Song, arr. T. Billingsley
Piano/organ duet

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: #730 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: Taps, trumpet-Lisa Williams

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS offered by Colonel Leonard C Kesselring Jr. and his wife Rebecca to honor all of those who have served or are currently serving in the military. God Bless America.

BULLETINS are in placed in memory of those who gave their all. A grateful nation thanks you.

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Tom Wright and Lisa Williams

LAY READER: Bill Rumble

Scriptures

Psalm 29 NRSV

The Voice of God in a Great Storm

A Psalm of David.

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Romans 8: 12-17 NRSV

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 3:1-17 NRSV

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

³ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the

kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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.

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Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard and hushed their rag - ing
 3 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose breath were fash - ioned sea and
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, pre - serve their lives in

rest - less wave, who told the might - y o - cean deep its
 at your word, who walked a - cross the surg - ing deep and
 sky and earth; who made the storm - y cha - os cease and
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, flood and flame, pro -

own ap - point - ed bounds to keep: O hear us when we
 in the storm lay calm in sleep: O hear us when we
 gave us life and light and peace: O hear us when we
 tect them by your ho - ly name, and to your glo - ry

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 let there be glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

1 Mine eyes have seen the glo-ry of the com-ing of the Lord;
 2 I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hun-dred cir-cling camps,
 3 He has sound-ed forth the trum-pet that shall nev-er call re-treat,
 4 In the beau-ty of the lil-ies Christ was born a-cross the sea,

he is tramp-ling out the vin-tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 they have build-ed him an al-tar in the eve-ning dews and damps;
 he is sift-ing out the hearts of all be-fore his judg-ment seat,
 with a glo-ry in his bos-om that trans-fig-ures you and me;

he hath loosed the fate-ful light-ning of his ter-ri-ble swift sword;
 I can read his right-eous sen-tence by the dim and flar-ing lamps;
 O be swift, my soul, to an-swer him; be ju-bi-lant, my feet!
 as he died to make us ho-ly, let us die to make all free,

Refrain

his truth is march-ing on.
 his day is march-ing on. Glo-ry, glo-ry, hal-le-lu-jah! Glo-ry, glo-ry, hal-le-
 Our God is march-ing on.
 while God is march-ing on.

lu-jah! Glo-ry, glo-ry, hal-le-lu-jah! His truth is march-ing on.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY TRINITY 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

MONDAY, MAY 31 – Memorial Day

Church office closed

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2 – Handbell Rehearsal

5:30PM In the Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY JUNE 6

10:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary



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)

The June Beeline is on the back radiator for those who requested a hard copy. There are extras if you would like one.

Thank you for your donations to Strengthen the Church envelopes are provided in the back.

Pastor Todd will have a Bible Study in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7pm beginning June 8. All are Welcome!

The offering for Our Churches Wider Mission will be received on Sunday, June 13. An envelope is provided in your offering box.

Couples are invited to register for the Renewal of Vows which will be held during worship on June 13. Please call the office with your names and anniversary date by Monday June 7. We will celebrate after the service with light refreshments.

The Story of Taps

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the

Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The captain chose a bugler.

He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" ...used at military funerals was born.

The words are ...

**Day is done...Gone the sun
From the lakes...From the hills...From the sky
All is well...safely rest...God is nigh.**

**Fading light...Dims the sight...And a star
Gems the sky...Gleaming bright
From afar. Drawing nigh...Falls the night.**

**Thanks, and praise...For our days...Neath the sun
Neath the stars...Neath the sky.
As we go. This we know...God is nigh.**

