

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 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

“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 9, 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: "Exaltation" ...arr. Victor L Gumma by the Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us show God's love by loving one another.

People: Respect those who differ from us also loved by God.

Leader: Love one another.

People: Take time to greet others with a wave, a nod, a smile, a few words.

Leader: Love one another.

People: Share the gift of time with someone who is lonely.

Leader: Love one another.

People: Show consideration toward all families and those we meet at school, work, and through all activities.

All: Let us demonstrate God's love by loving one another.

HYMN: #398 O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

As we practice living Your love by loving others, You, O God, return that love to us many times over. You show us again and again how love makes itself known. Thank you for loving us and calling each one of us to be Your instruments of love in the world, through Jesus and by Your Holy Spirit, 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: This Is My
Commandment

This is my commandment, that ye love one another, that your joy may be full. This is my commandment that ye love one another, that your joy may be full. That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full. This is my commandment that ye love one another, that your joy may be full.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 98

1 John 5: 1-6

John 15: 9-17

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Tough Love"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Williams,
arr. Fritz

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: #346 O Come to Me the Master Said

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 Barbara Backensto & Family

BULLETINS are sponsored by Margy and Dan Sabetti in

honor of Mother's Day

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti, Cindy Beck and Bob Ruhe

LAY READER: Margy Sabetti

Scriptures

Psalm 98

Praise the Judge of the World

A Psalm.

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

² The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

I John 5:1-6

Faith Conquers the World

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ^[a] has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Testimony concerning the Son of God

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15: 9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay

down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, MAY 9 – MOTHER'S DAY

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, MAY 10

4-8PM Bach Choir in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, MAY 11

11AM Memorial Service for James Stettler @ Saint Philip and Saint James Cemetery Phillipsburg NJ

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 – Handbell Rehearsal

5:30PM In the Sanctuary

THURSDAY, MAY 13 Ascension Day

7PM Consistory in Snyder Chapel

NEXT SUNDAY MAY 16

9:30AM Adult Class in Fellowship Hall

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

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

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her" **Proverbs 31:24-28**

Here's an interesting program note on the offertory.

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus...Often the title of a hymn is determined only by its text with little thought for the tune, but such is not the case in this late 19th-century hymn. One night while crossing the Hungerford Bridge in London, the disturbed young poet Samuel Trevor Francis was tempted to jump into the roiling waters below. Instead, he cried out to the God of his youth, and renewed his former passion for a faith-filled life. The phrase, "Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love," in the first verse of this hymn is a snapshot of the author's life-changing experience on a London bridge. Although Francis never met the Welsh organist, Choirmaster, and composer Thomas J. Williams, there could hardly be a better match between his text and the Welshman's equally haunting tune which, according to a widely believed legend, was discovered in a bottle that washed up along the Welsh Coast. Arranger Mary Ann Fritz has been faithful to the beauty and intent of both the text and tune of this deeply moving hymn. - B. Seaborn

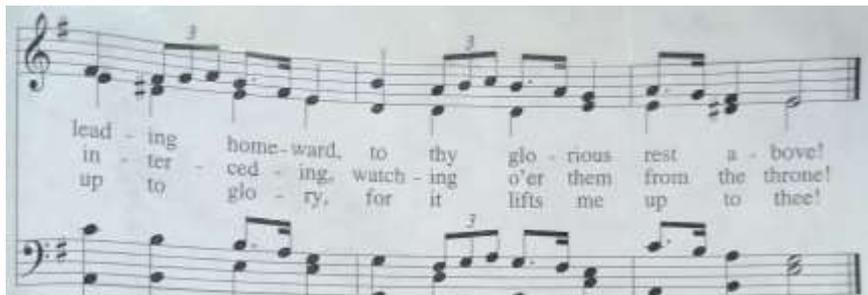
398 O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

1 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - mea - sured,
 2 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus—spread his praise from
 3 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of ev - ery

bound - less, free! Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean in its
 shore to shore! How he loves us, ev - er loves us, chang - es
 love the best! 'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing, 'tis a

full - ness o - ver me! Un - der - neath me, all a - round me,
 nev - er, nev - er - more! How he watch - es o'er his loved ones
 ha - ven sweet of rest! O the deep, deep love of Je - sus—

is the cur - rent of thy love— lead - ing on - ward,
 died to call them all his own; how for them he's
 'tis a heaven of heavens to me; and it lifts me



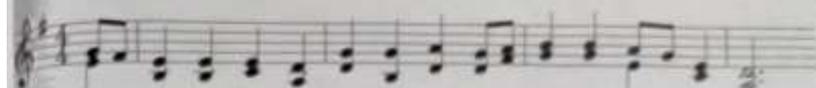
The Bach Choir is presenting a Virtual Festival Concert program on Saturday May 15th at 7:30 pm. Check out the live streaming on WFMZ.com. Look for our own P.T. and Bev Rumble.



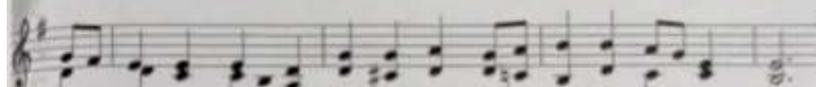
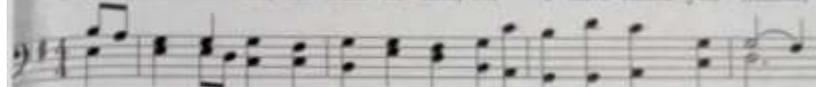
AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio recording of the worship service, please let Bill Rumble know at wrumble@ptd.net. A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link.

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.

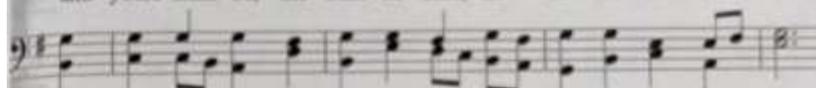
O Come to Me, the Master Said 346



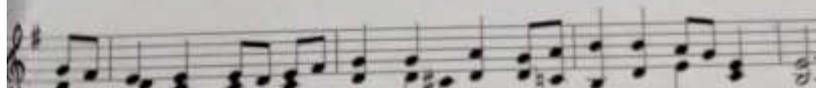
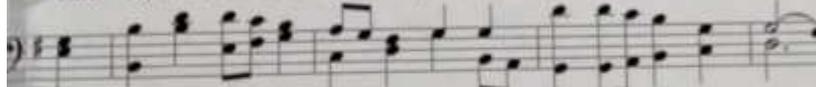
1 O come to me, the Mas-ter said, my Fa-ther knows your need;
 2 A - bide in me, the Mas-ter said, the true and liv - ing vine;
 3 Be - lieve in me, the Mas-ter said, for I have called you friends,



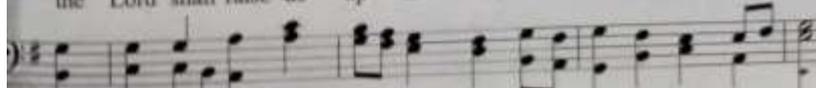
and I shall be, the Mas-ter said, your bread of life in - deed,
 my life shall be, the Mas-ter said, poured out for you as wine,
 and yours shall be, the Mas-ter said, the life that nev - er ends.



By faith in him we live and grow and share the bro - ken bread,
 His bod - y to the cross he gave, his blood he free - ly shed,
 And so, with sin and sor - row past, when death it - self is dead,



and all his love and good-ness know, for so the Mas-ter said,
 who came in love to seek and save, for so the Mas-ter said,
 the Lord shall raise us up at last, for so the Mas-ter said.



A Prayer to Honor and Bless Moms on Mother's Day

Heavenly Father,

I speak this prayer to you now in gratitude and praise for the gift of mothers. My mother, those of my friends, relatives, those I'll never know, all mothers. Thank you for the role they play in the family unit. Thank you for their teachings, their wisdom, their patience, and understanding. Thank you for the physical, emotional, and spiritual gifts they possess. I pray that you help mothers all across the world to be a blessing upon their children. Whether delivering affirmation or discipline, I pray that you help every word and action to be done in love. And I pray that children throughout the world would take time to honor their mothers, that you would show them how to uniquely do so.

I pray that these mothers also act as a blessing beyond their households, reaching into their extended families, communities, churches, schools. I pray that the impact of motherhood is revered throughout society and that these women are acknowledged for their everyday impact on the world. May you guide each of them into fulfilling their purpose here on Earth. Amen.

- Aaron D. Brown