

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



September 12, 2021 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **“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

September 12, 2021

10:45 AM

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany. As per the Consistory decision, we will return to wearing masks for all services and meetings here at Bethany. We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes when appropriate.

**(\*) PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE  
(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" ..., arr. S. Eithun

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come to worship the God of compassion, even in the midst of a world where there is much cruelty.

**P: We gather to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ once more, though we are aware that we often lack the courage to speak words of truth and love in daily life.**

L: Christ, by your presence among us, give us courage to live as your people day by day.

**P: We gather as witnesses that God is at work in the midst of human lives, and that love, not cruelty and cowardice, will triumph in the end.**

**All: Glory be to the living God of mercy and compassion, and to Jesus Christ the faithful witness!  
Amen!**

HYMN: #344 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus  
Vs.1 All, vs.2 Women, vs.3 Men, vs.4 All

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Lord 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 gentle guidance of Your Spirit, that we may know the joy You give Your people. 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): #349 Seek Ye First. Both verses*

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 46

James 3:1-12

\* Mark 8: 27-38

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "20 years ago ...God in the Rubble"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "A Quiet Reflection" ...R.K. Boesiger  
*During this time, let our hearts and minds reflect on the events that occurred on September 11, 2001. This piece was carefully selected for this purpose.*

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #44 Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, you heavenly host, praise father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Holy God, You are the maker of heaven and earth. Accept these offerings we present to You today. May they become vessels of support for Your work in this place and in Your world. Consecrate us anew to Your service, in Jesus' name we pray. 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: #350 The Summons

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 Blest Be the Tie that Binds  
**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE

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



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are presented in honor of John and Trish Talijan's 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They would also like to honor any others who will be or have celebrated their anniversaries in September.

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti, Bob Ruhe, Volunteer

LAY READER: Dan Sabetti

## Scriptures

### Psalm 46 NRSV

#### God's Defense of His City and People

**To the leader. Of the Korahites. According to Alamo. A Song.**

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- <sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
- <sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> “Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

## **James 3: 1 – 12 NRSV**

### **Taming the Tongue**

**3** Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup> Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine yield figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

## **Mark 8: 27-38 NRSV**

### **Peter's Declaration about Jesus**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

### **Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**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. Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

### **TODAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

10:45AM      Worship in Fellowship Hall followed by the Picnic.

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

9:30AM – 1:30PM      Office Hours

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

9:30AM              1:30PM Office hours

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

No Handbell Rehearsal

No Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

9:30AM-1:30PM      Office Hours

### **NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19**

10:45AM              Worship in Sanctuary. Join us as the Chancel Choir returns after a very long break!



# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 344

Unison <sup>C</sup>

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -  
 2 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -  
 3 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go  
 4 Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

<sup>F</sup> <sup>C</sup>

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low  
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -  
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will  
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

<sup>C/G</sup> <sup>D9/A</sup> <sup>G7/B</sup> <sup>C</sup>

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 Je - sus?— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

October is coming and in the past Bethany has done a Trick or Treat event here at the church. Due to many different reasons the Growth Committee is down to Debbie Brown and Jenna Nguyen. If you are interested in joining this group, we would love to have you, whether for this event or full time. Please let us know. I'd hate to disappoint all the children that look forward to stopping by.

## The Summons

*Unison*

1 Will you come and fol - low me if I but  
 2 Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but  
 3 Will you let the blind - ed see if I but  
 4 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but

call your name? Will you go where you don't  
 call your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 call your name? Will you set the pris - oners  
 call my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same? Will you  
 kind and nev - er be the same? Will you  
 free and nev - er be the same? Will you  
 you and nev - er be the same. In your

let my love be shown, will you let my  
 risk the hos - tile stare should your life at -  
 kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

WORDS: John L. Bell (1949 - )  
 MUSIC: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell (1949 - )

Word and Music © 1987 WGBG The Love Community (Atlanta, GA Publishers)

KELVIN GROVE  
 7 & 7.6.7.7.6

name be known, will you let my life be  
tract or scare? Will you let me an-  
this un- seen, and ad- mit to what I  
foot- steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?  
prayer in you and you in me?  
mean in you and you in me?  
grow in you and you in me.

## Sponsor a Bill

This is a program that was started a few years ago. Sometimes when you contribute to an organization you wonder where your money is going. With this program you are able to pick a bill and know that the money you give is helping with that specific item. You may choose something that is paid monthly, quarterly, or yearly depending on how much you are able to give. We will be highlighting a few bills each month to give you some suggestions but feel free to contact the office if you have something else in mind. Here are a few suggestions for this month. When the charge is monthly, please understand you are not committing to this each month, you are just going to cover one month's fee.

Case of Copy Paper \$35

Times News Church Listings \$27.00 per month

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up! What a great response, thank you all.

# Joyful Noise for September

September Joyful Noise on September 19<sup>th</sup> will be to benefit the Maxwell James Oskam Foundation. This foundation was started after 99-day old Max died from an undiagnosed neuroblastoma. Paula and Todd Oskam found a way to channel their grief into something positive in hopes of raising awareness of pediatric cancer. Here are some unbelievable facts about this terrible disease.

\* 400,00 children 19 and under are diagnosed with cancer

\* Cancer is the leading cause of death last infancy for U.S. Kids

\* ONLY 4% of the billions of government dollars is allocated to pediatric cancer

\* Since 1950 only 4 drugs have been FAR approved for pediatric cancer

\* In 2020 alone 21 drugs were FDA approved for adult cancer

If Max had been diagnosed, he would have likely been treated with one-size-fits-all, adult cancer drugs watered down to the weight of a child. This is a cause near and dear to my heart. I never met Max and I have grieved with my niece Paula and her family. I hope you will help us raise money and awareness for this wonderful foundation. Help us beat pediatric cancer. Maxwell's 4th birthday is September 18. Please help me give him a great present!

Thank you,

Wendy Glassic