

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon., Tues., and Thurs. 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

“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

March 2, 2022

7 PM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of Worship. May this be a time of blessing for you. 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 Christ, Thou Lamb of God" (Christe, du Lamm Gottes) ... P. Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN: #252 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days""

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Gracious God, we can hardly believe that You have given us life and salvation as a free gift in Jesus Christ! We confess that we continually try to carry the burden of sin and salvation on our own shoulders, rather than trusting Your forgiveness and seeking new life in Your Spirit. Help us to place our trust in You, and to accept the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: Let us turn from our sins and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: ##491 Open Our Eyes
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen, open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51: 1-17

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Pastor: This is the Good News

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

MEDITATION: Pastor Fennell

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY "We Gather at Your Table Lord" ...W. Ehret
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #470 "Savior Thy Dying Love"
vs. 1

**Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me,
Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from Thee;
In love my soul would bow, my heart fulfils its vow,
Some offering brings Thee now, Something for Thee.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND PRAYER OF
CONSECRATION

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

Eternal and Loving God, You satisfy us with the food and drink of Eternal Life. We thank You for this sacrament of Love and Grace and pray that we may offer unto You our lives as living sacrifices. Walk with us these forty days of cross bearing service through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #521 “Abide with Me” vs. 1, 3, 4

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #473 What a Friend We Have in Jesus vs. 2

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

POSTLUDE.

Our worship ends, our service begins!

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Bev Rumble

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51: 1-17 (NRSV)

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be

pleased.

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God^[d] is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (NRSV)

Concerning Almsgiving

6 “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

Concerning Prayer

⁵ “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Fasting

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Treasures

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 252

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,
 3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
 4 And thro' these days of pen - i - tence, and thro' your Pas - sion - tide,
 5 A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,

teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con - quer sin.
 to die to self, and so to live by your most ho - ly Word.
 for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!

521

Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but your grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness,
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who, like your - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Lord who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I triumph still, if you a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.