

# 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](mailto:bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com)

**Web address:** [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



March 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Lent

## **“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 27, 2022

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, masks are optional 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)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "I Saw the Light" ...H. Williams  
Banjo and Vocal – Bob Ruhe

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In Thee, O Lord, do I seek refuge; let me never be put to shame;

**P: In thy righteousness deliver me!**

L: Incline Thy ear to me, rescue me speedily!

**P: Be Thou a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!**

L: Thou art my rock and my fortress; for Thy name's sake lead me and guide me.

**P: Into thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.**

\*HYMN: #348 Softly and Tenderly

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Author of abundance, God of change, we come into this hour of holy expectations. As we travel on our journey of transformation this Lenten season, we know that you are with us. You walk beside us. Your presence surrounds us. Help us to bear fruit as we walk this road.**

**Remind us that you will never leave us nor forsake us, that your rod and your staff comfort us, that you have prepared a feast for us when all can come and eat. Keep us forever in the path as we worship you in spirit and in truth. 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): #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.**

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 32: 1 - 7

2 Corinthians 5: 16 - 21

\* Matthew 27: 15 - 26

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "The Nail of Envy"

INSTALLATION OF CONSISTORY:

John Talijan, Deacon

Matt Miller, Elder

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

**We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

## OFFERING INVITATION

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Amazing Grace" ...arr. K. Staton  
Chancel Choir

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)  
God of Justice and Love, transform these offerings, that  
they may be gifts of justice and love for a world in need  
of hope and help. Let love flow through these offerings,  
that they may become gifts of love for the world.**

## 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: #371 Our Father, We Have Wandered**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: Day by Day

**Day by day, Dear Lord, of thee three things I pray; To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly, Follow thee more nearly, Day by day.**

POSTLUDE

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



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are presented to honor the Glory of God by Len & Rebecca Kesselring.

GREETERS: Corey Tancin

USHERS: Len Kesselring, Tom Wright

LAY READER: Mike Reiniger

**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.

### **CHURCH CANCELLATIONS**

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent.

# Scriptures

## Psalm 32: 1 - 7 NRSV

### The Joy of Forgiveness of David. A Maskil.

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup> While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let all who are faithful  
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters  
shall not reach them.

<sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me;

you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*

## 2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21 NRSV

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human  
point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a

human point of view, we know him no longer in that  
way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away; see, everything has

become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to

himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of

reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the

world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them,

and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **Matthew 27: 15 - 26 NRSV**

### **Barabbas or Jesus?**

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

### **Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified**

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this

man's blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

## Joyful Noise

Once again, we will be collecting for Alzheimer's Disease Research during the month of March. Our gifts will once again be matched (doubled) by an anonymous donor. Last year we raised over \$1,000 for this worthy cause and one very near and dear to our hearts here at Bethany Church. Checks need to be made out to Bethany UCC with Alzheimer's written in the memo. Bethany will send one check to the organization. Thank you in advance for your most generous donations. Any questions can be directed to Sue Wright.

P.S. Good News! The deadline has been extended. We will accept donations through April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As of March 20<sup>th</sup>, we have collected \$1,141.00 which will be doubled!



**We received a letter from the West Side food bank thanking us for our donation of soups that were collected on souper bowl Sunday. Please remember that what you do is appreciated by the people of this community.**

## **Nuts!**

**We're going to sell nuts for Easter and need all the help we can get. By popular demand we will sell, Peanuts for \$3 a bag, Cashews and Almonds for \$5 a bag. Orders will be taken until March 28<sup>th</sup>. We will then prepare the nuts on Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars and block out this time to help Bethany continue the long tradition of fellowship while we raise funds to help our church. If you are not able to help, please consider placing an order. As you all know we had decided to end the Nut sales due to low numbers of helpers. When outside folks heard about this they offered to come and help so they would be able to continue purchasing our delicious nuts. Due to this offer of help we decided to try and have four sales this year. One for Easter, in June, for Thanksgiving and for Christmas. Hopefully this will give you enough time to block out some time to help. See you in Fellowship Hall!**

## **New Members**

We will have new members joining Bethany on Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Interested? See Pastor Todd

## **Easter Flowers**

**Easter Flowers will be available to order starting now. We will be ordering from Cierech Greenhouses. Since the poinsettias we ordered were beautiful I look forward to enjoying the daffodils, tulips and mums we decorate the altar with on Easter Sunday. The flowers will be \$10 each. Order forms will be in the back of the sanctuary.**

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, MARCH, 27**

9:30AM Adult Bible Study

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary. We will be collecting for OGHS. Last day to order Easter Flowers.

### **MONDAY, MARCH 28**

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

7PM Bethany UCC @ Star of Bethlehem

Last day to order nuts for Easter!

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 29**

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

7:30PM New Members Class

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30**

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

6:30PM Woodwind Rehearsal

6:45PM Trombone Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 31**

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 2**

9AM Nut Preparation in Fellowship Hall

### **NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 3**

9:30AM Adult Bible Study

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

### **MONDAY, APRIL 4**

9AM Nut Preparation in Fellowship Hall

**Don't Forget to pick up a Lenten Folder! Those quarters really add up!**