

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-444 Fax: 610-868-7918

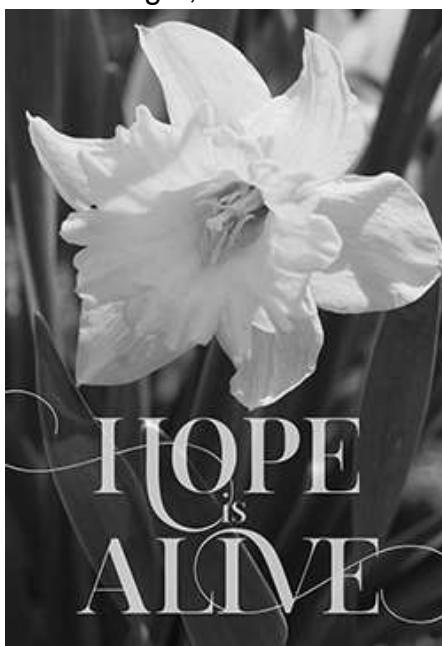
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



April 24, 2022

“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

April 24, 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 Will Praise Him Margaret J. Harris
arr. Cindy Berry

Blessed be the name of Jesus! I'm so glad He took me in; He's forgiven my transgressions; He has cleansed my heart from sin.

I will praise Him! I will praise Him! Praise the lamb for sinners slain; Give him glory, all ye people, for His blood can wash away each stain.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Oh, sing to God a new song

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Pastor: Because of God's steadfast love to Israel,

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our god.

Pastor: For now, is Christ risen from the dead?

People: The Lord is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

*HYMN: #308 This Joyful Easter tide

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and Eternal God, we
thank You that You have left us
alone in our sin and despair.
Loving us, You have brought
us good news and set before
us the way of Life. Yet we
confess that we have failed to
see the way. In stubborn pride
we have spurned Your mercy
and Your help. In selfishness
we have turned away from
those who need us. We have
allowed ourselves to be
crushed by troubles, as though
Christ had not been raised at
all. Forgive our faithlessness,
and grant that we may know
new life and hope, in the spirit
of the resurrection. In Jesus'
name we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #291 Alleluia
(refrain) **Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,**
Alleluia alleluia! Give praise to his name!

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Revelation 1: 4-8

*John 20:19-31

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Visions of Hope"

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates PNEC Minister

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Worthy is the Lamb" ...D. Wyrtzen
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #688 We Give Thee but
Thine Own

**We give Thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may
be: all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord
from 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (pg.9)

*HYMN: #261 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #305 He is Lord
**He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead
and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every
tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!**

Please join us downstairs for lunch and our discussion on the future of the church!

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are presented in memory of Jennie Marie Ettwein “Nana” whose birthday was celebrated on April 26th by her family.
GREETERS: Ina Denninger
USHERS: Consistory
LAY READER: Diane Diefenderfer

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

Scriptures

Revelation 1: 4 - 8 NRSV

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.



John 20: 19 - 31 NRSV

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates.

We are also celebrating communion. Join us in Fellowship Hall for lunch and discussion about the future of the church.

MONDAY, APRIL 25

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

5:30PM Handbell rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 1

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the Baptism of Jane Catherine Rumble!
Please join us!

An Order for Communion

Invitation:

M: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

C: This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

Men and women, youth, and children, come from the east and the west, from the north, and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

Call to Prayer:

M: God be with you.

C: And also, with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

M: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

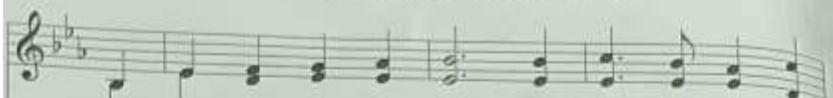
Congregational Response: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know You as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen

The Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving(unison)

We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

This Joyful Eastertide



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
 2 My be - ing shall re - joice se - cure with - in God's
 3 Death's wa - ters lost their chill when Je - sus crossed the



sad ness! Our Lord, the cru - ci - fied, has
 keep ing, un - til the trum - pet voice shall
 riv er. His love shall reach me still; his



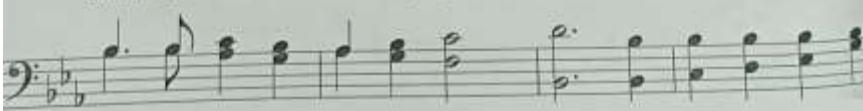
Refrain

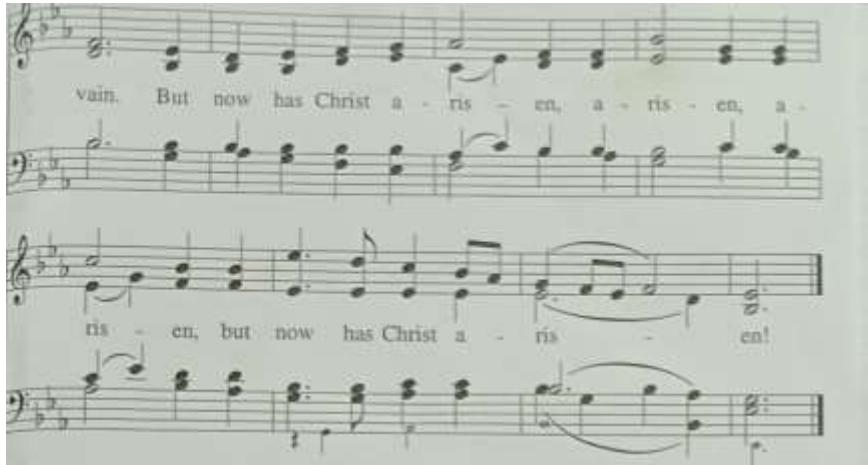


filled our hearts with glad ness.
 wake us from our sleep ing. Had Christ, who once was
 mer - cy is for - ev er.



slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith would be in





When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 261

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood,
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

