

# 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

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

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



August 21, 2022

Eleventh 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

August 21, 2022

10:00 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)**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Healing Grace" ...Chisum/Sadler

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: A new day has dawned.

**P: God's gift of life is renewed in you and me.**

L: Praise God for today!

**P: Praise God for the creative spirit in our midst.**

\*HYMN: #82 Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Rock of Ages, God of wisdom and truth, speak to us clearly, that we might live in Your wisdom and walk in Your truth. As we open to Your presence, help us to hear and receive Your message this day. Speak and bless, that we might be healed and empowered to do Your will. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #657 He Has Made Me Glad

**I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter his courts with praise. I will say “This is the day that the Lord has made!” I will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me glad; he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me glad; he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has made me glad.**

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalms 71: 1-6

Hebrews 12: 18-29

\* Luke 13: 10-17

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: “Persons Over Systems”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “Sing, Dance, Clap Your Hands” ...arr. H. I. Ziegenhais

Chancel Choir

\*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)

**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: #712 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 Blessed Be the Tie That  
Binds vs.1

**Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

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



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are presented by Sharon and Phil Haines in honor of Carol Haines who is celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday today.

GREETERS: Volunteer

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring

LAY READER: Len Kesselring

**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.

## Scriptures

### Psalm 71: 1 - 6 NRSV

#### Prayer for Lifelong Protection and Help

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.
- <sup>2</sup> In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me and save me.
- <sup>3</sup> Be to me a rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.
- <sup>4</sup> Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
- <sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
- <sup>6</sup> From my birth I have leaned upon you,  
my protector since my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of you.

### Hebrews 12: 18 - 29 NRSV

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an

animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.”<sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”)<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,<sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,<sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven!<sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.”<sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe,<sup>29</sup> for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

## **Luke 13: 10 - 17 NRSV**

### **Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman**

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because

Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

## Church Picnic

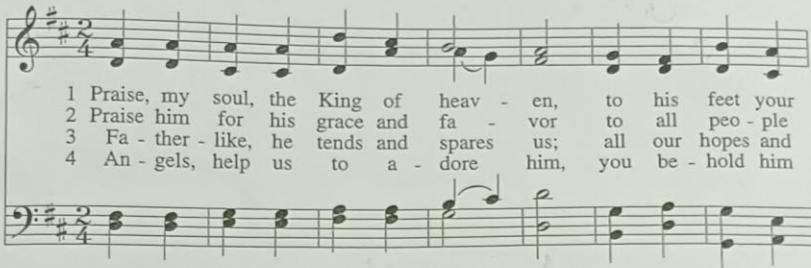
**Please join us on September 11 at Louise Moore Park as we return to our outdoor church picnic. We will provide Hot Dogs and want you to provide the side dishes, desserts and drinks as we have done so well in the past! We are also suggesting that if anyone is interested in playing any games to prolong the fun you may bring them along or step up and offer to be in charge of the after-church fun. Our service will be at 10:45 where we will remember 9-11 with patriotic music. A sign-up sheet is back on the table so mark your calendars! Remember "Be there or be square!"**

Many thanks to those who have contributed toward the large plumbing bill of \$1690.00. Total received: \$1300.00  
You may continue to contribute. Please designate your contribution to Plumbing.

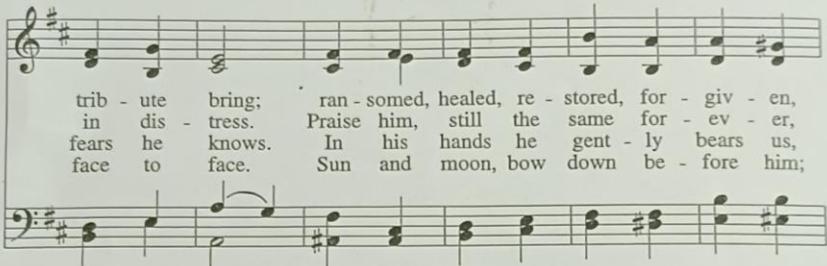
August 21, 2022  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Luke 13:10-17  
Healing Reign

For eighteen years the woman in today's story suffered an ailment that kept her bent over and in pain. Jesus knew how to bring healing to the woman who suffered, but those around him wanted him to wait until after the sabbath. Jesus knew that suffering could not wait. If healing was available and ready at once, then it should be enacted. Look around. What kind of suffering do you see in your region or neighborhood? Is there suffering that has been allowed to linger because it seems that it is never the right time to heal? What kind of healing can you and your congregation bring to those broken places? Pray this prayer as you open your heart and mind to the suffering in your midst and the healing that might be available to alleviate that suffering. Jesus, our friend and brother, We breathe in and we breathe out. With each breath in, we receive the suffering of our neighbors. With each breath out, we exhale your healing power. With each breath in, we pray for courage and insight With each breath out, we become more like you. With each breath in, we feel your strength and clarity With each breath out, we step forward, reach toward. Jesus, our friend and brother, Guide us, we pray, as we breathe, pray, become, feel, step, reach, heal. Amen

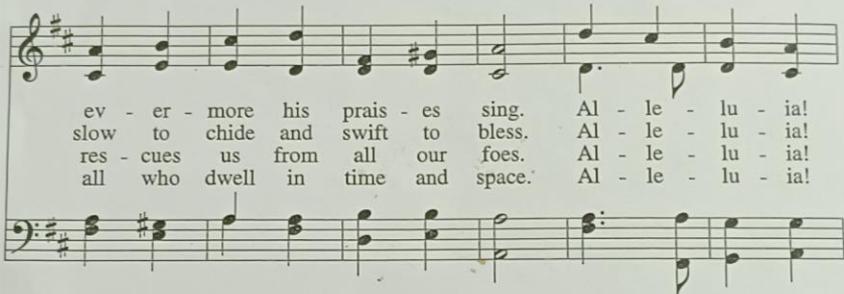
## Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven 82



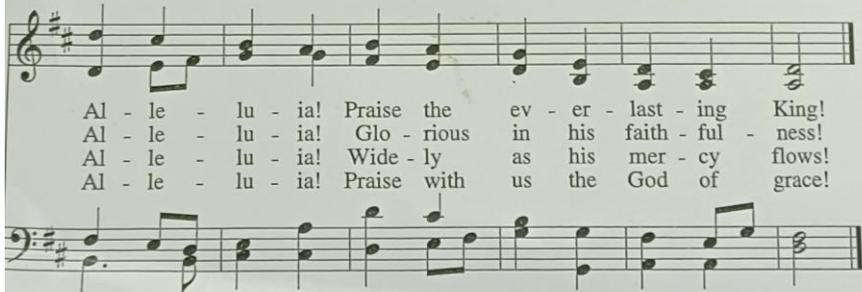
1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your  
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple  
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; all our hopes and  
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, you be - hold him



trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
 in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,  
 fears he knows. In his hands he gent - ly bears us,  
 face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



ev - er - more his prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

# Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*Unison*

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing our true faith con - fess - ing, the  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave. The  
 tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our

ser - vice is end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the  
 faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -

fruits of our wor - ship in all who be - lieve. The  
 brac - ing God's chil - dren of each tribe and race. With

WORDS: Omer Westendorf (1916-1998)

*(over)* ASH GRO

seed of the teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, shall  
your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us: u -

blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all. God's  
nite us as one in this life that we share. Then

grace did in - vite us, and love shall u - nite us to  
may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing give

work for God's king - dom and an - swer the call.  
hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**

10AM We are in Fellowship Hall for Worship.

### **MONDAY, AUGUST 22**

9:30AM          1:30PM Office Hours

Beeline Articles Due

### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 23**

9:30AM          1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24**

5:30PM          Handbell Rehearsal

7PM              Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 25**

9:30AM          1:30PM Office Hours

### **NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

#### Alzheimer's Education Opportunity

On Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup> we will hear from Kelly Schoenberger from Alzheimer's Research. Due to our support with their work for the last 11 years she would like to both thank us as well as share with us what has been accomplished during that time. She will speak briefly during church after which we will adjourn to Fellowship Hall for a soup and salad lunch. After that we are extending an invitation to the other UCC churches as well as our neighboring churches and the neighborhood to join us for an educational talk and question and answer time. Kelly would like to make us aware of the resources that are available to anyone who needs them. Please contact the office if you are willing to help by either preparing soup or helping with this project.