

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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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



October 2, 2022

World Wide Communion

“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

October 2, 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.

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

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Fairest Lord Jesus" ...arr. Smith/Hustad
Piano / organ duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We have gathered to rejoice in our oneness in Jesus Christ;

P: We have one God, one faith, and one baptism, and one spirit who unites us all.

L: Let us lift our hearts as one, in songs of praise, in prayer, and in listening for God's word.

P: Glory be to God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, who loves, saves, and renews us. Amen

*HYMN: #706 I Come with Joy

CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God, Life of all that surges through all of creation, we confess that we have often closed ourselves off and prevented the river flow of life through us. We have lost touch with the unique worth of the life each of us has to live. Our eyes fail to perceive beauty in people and in the world. On this day of our unity as Christians the world

over help us find peace and concord and cooperation as vessels of Your Kingdom. Open our hearts, that we may walk and serve in the name of Jesus, who gave His life and the hope of Resurrection Hear now our personal petitions for Your grace (pause)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #603 In Christ

There is No East or West vs.4

In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north; all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalms 37: 1-9

2 Timothy 1: 1-14

* Luke 17: 1-10

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: We Have Only Done Our Duty

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "With This Cup and With This Bread...B.

Logan

Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #688 We Give Thee but Thine Own vs.1

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be: all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 church and in Your world, consecrate us anew as living sacrifice, to Your service. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (pg.8)

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: #698 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #395 The Bond of Love vs.2

Let us sing now, everyone; let us feel God's love begun. Let us join our hands that the world will know we are one in the bond of love.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



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

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Beverly Rumble

Scriptures

Psalm 37: 1 – 9 NRSV

- ¹ Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- ² for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
- ³ Trust in the LORD and do good;
live in the land and enjoy security.
- ⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
- ⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
- ⁸ Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- ⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

2 Timothy 1: 1 - 14 NRSV

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayer’s night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Luke 17: 1 - 10 NRSV

17 Jesus said to his disciples, “Occasions for sin are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come! ² It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to sin. ³ Be on your guard! If a brother or sister sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. ⁴ And if the same person sins against you seven times a day and turns back to you seven times and says, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive.”

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

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.

Laity Sunday is October 9th . We are looking for 3-4 members to share reflections on the theme “The Power of Prayer”. Please let Pastor Todd know if you will share in church that Sunday.

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.

October 2, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 137

Free to Grieve

Neighbors in Need Offering

World Communion Sunday

The psalm today begins with weeping, as God's people wonder how to sing God's song

And so, we hung up our harps,
there upon the willows.

For there our captors asked us for songs,
and our tormentors asked for mirth,

saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How could we sing God's song in a foreign land?

In 1933, in a pause between the last century's world wars, the first World Communion Sunday was celebrated as a way to celebrate the interconnectedness of all Christians in all times and in all places. Today, 99 years later, the need for unity in our diversity is as great, or maybe greater, than it was in those fragile interwar years.

This mid-and-post-pandemic world in which we find ourselves is indeed a strange land, and we might be asking ourselves how we can sing God's songs of justice, love and unity? Hope can be found in *Gifts in Open Hands: More Worship Ideas for the Global Community* by Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy. This book shares multicultural liturgies, prayers, affirmations, blessings, and poetry by people from the global community. Images for reproduction in church bulletins are included, and a new feature is the arrangement of translations so that liturgies in other languages are available to English-speaking as well as bilingual worship planners. You can find that resource, and many more at The Pilgrim Press website, thepilgrimpress.com.

Today many UCC congregations receive the Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering. This special mission offering of the United Church of Christ supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities. Find more at the United Church of Christ website, ucc.org.

I Come with Joy

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near, to find, as
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud, as
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that

loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 all are fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a
 God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

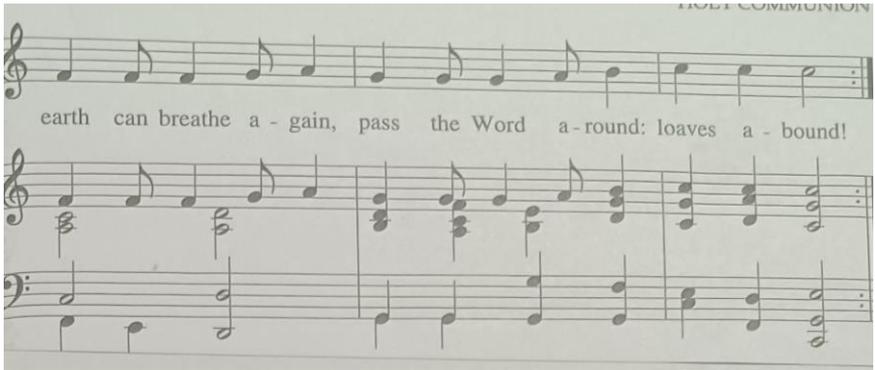
698 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 set the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

Refrain

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary! World Wide
Communion/Neighbors in Need

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

8:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

6PM 8PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary! Laity Sunday