

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

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



**Transfiguration**  
SUNDAY

February 19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

**“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

February 19, 2023

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: "Let the Heavens Be Glad" ...L. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O Lord, we lift our eyes to You.

**P: We trust You, O Lord.**

L: Teach us Your ways.

**C: O Lord, lead us in the light of Your love forever, Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #247 Sing of God Made Manifest

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Holy God, mighty and immortal, You are beyond our knowing, yet we see Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the image of Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #654 Holy Ground

**We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around. Let us praise Jesus now; We are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (Unison):

**We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. God grant that together we may continue to grow in his knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Lord.**

HYMN: #589 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

READING OF SCRIPTURES

2 Peter 1: 16-21

\*Matthew 19: 1-9

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Mountaintops"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies ...H.  
Willan

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**

**God of life and love, Savior of all, receive with these gifts our gratitude for Your guidance, penitence for our pride and dedication to Your service in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**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: #245 We have Come at Christ's Own Bidding**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #717 Go Now in Peace**

**Go now in peace, though friends must part, your presence lives in every heart. Your gifts to us no words can tell: go now in peace, in Christ go well.**

**POSTLUDE**

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



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are placed in memory of Harry W Denninger's birthday on 2/22 and in celebration of Ella Jane Sutter's First Birthday also on 2/22, by their loving families, The Denninger's, Wright's, Brunner's and Sutter's.  
GREETERS: Corey Tancin  
USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Corey Tancin  
LAY READER: Jean Fennell

## Scriptures

### **2 Peter 1: 16 - 21 NRSV**

<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

### **Matthew 17: 1 – 9 NRSV**

<sup>17</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah,

talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

## **BETHANY OUTREACH**

### **Bethlehem Emergency Shelter**

Just a friendly reminder that we are scheduled to prepare the dinner meal at the shelter on Friday, March 3rd. At this time, we are looking for any monetary donations to offset the cost of the meals for these two dinners as well as the breakfast bags we prepare for our guests to take with them the next morning when they leave the shelter. We are also looking for bakers. I am so happy to report that our remaining night at the shelter is fully staffed and a huge thank you goes out to our wonderful volunteers. We could not do this without you. Thank you again for your continued commitment to this very important philanthropy! Today we will be selling the leftover Chicken Corn Chowder please see Sherri after the service. Thanks again for the amazing amount of baked goods we received. Please share some of the leftovers after service.

**Blessing Bag Donations are being collected at St. Thomas UCC and here at Bethany from now until June to benefit students (ages 11-15) at a Charter School in Allentown. Items needed are travel size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, face wipes, washcloths, razors, shaving cream, tampons, pads, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, Look for the basket in our narthex.**

**2023 Flower and Bulletin Charts** are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance.

Please note that the prices for fresh flowers will be - two vases will cost \$45. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30.

Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk.

As in the past, contact the office with your information for the bulletin no later than the Tuesday before your sponsored date. Thank you. We are now working with Country Rose Florist @ Westgate Mall.

**Any questions, contact the church office.**

**Please consider signing up to support these programs.**

**For \$20 you can celebrate someone's special day or something as simple as you saw the first robin of spring. With so much bad news let's look for the good.**

### **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.

**Bach Spring Concert- First Presbyterian Church Beth.**

Celebrate the season of rebirth and spring awakening! Bach's *Easter Oratorio and Messiah* tells this story. Full of resurrection triumph, it also gives voice the doubt and fear of

the first witnesses of the empty tomb. The final part of *Messiah* focuses on eternal life, including the rousing aria, "I know my Redeemer liveth," for soprano, and joyful choruses of thanksgiving and acclamation. Join us on March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm. Tickets range from \$9-\$45.

### *New Members*

*Today we welcome two new members to our Bethany Family. Sherry Gangewere and Eric Derr wish to be official members. Sherry has been attending services with us for quite awhile and is currently running our Bethlehem Emergency Shelter program. Eric has also joined us for services and looks forward to taking part in more of our outreach programs as well. God's blessings on both of you and welcome to the family!*

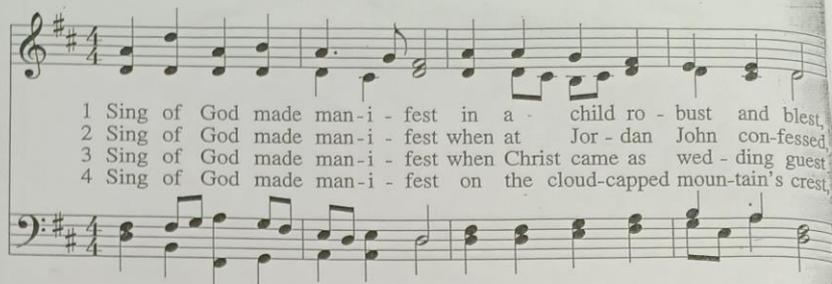
**Annual Reports are available to be picked up in the rear of the sanctuary. Please take anyone who you will see in the next week in order for us to save postage costs.**

### Sponsor a Bill

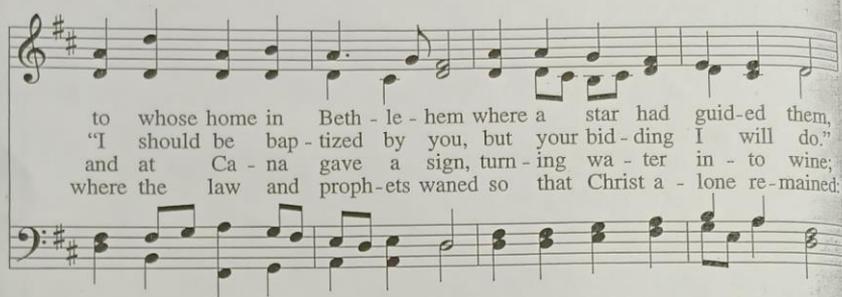
It is once again time to renew our music licensing for the next year. This helps Sue to arrange the beautiful music we hear each week as part of our service. The price for this license is \$150. If you would like to contribute to this cost, please mark your donations to Music License.

Thank You

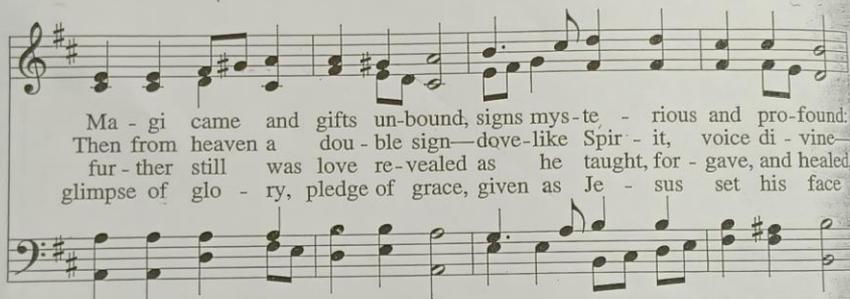
## Sing of God Made Manifest



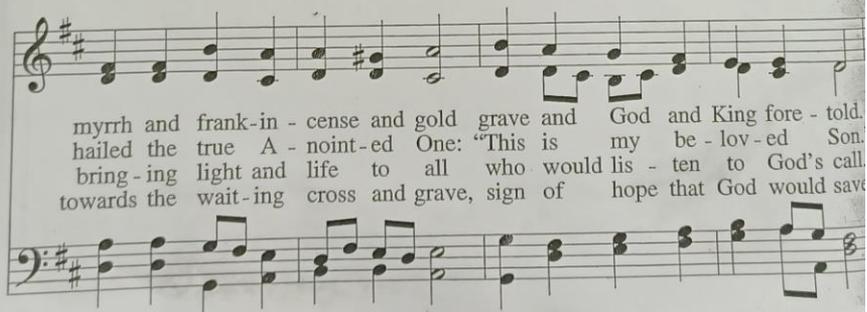
1 Sing of God made man-i - fest in a - child ro - bust and blest,  
 2 Sing of God made man-i - fest when at Jor - dan John con-fessed,  
 3 Sing of God made man-i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest,  
 4 Sing of God made man-i - fest on the cloud-capped moun-tain's crest,



to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid-ed them,  
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."  
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 where the law and proph-ets waned so that Christ a - lone re-mained:



Ma - gi came and gifts un-bound, signs mys-te - rious and pro-found:  
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove-like Spir - it, voice di - vine—  
 fur - ther still was love re-vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,  
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank-in - cense and gold grave and God and King fore - told,  
 hailed the true A - noint-ed One: "This is my be - lov-ed Son,  
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call,  
 towards the wait-ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save

## 589 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

1 O Mas-ter, let me walk with thee in low-ly paths of ser-vice free;  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, win-ning word of love;  
 3 Teach me thy pa-tience—still with thee in clos-er, dear-er com-pa-ny,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin-ing ray far down the fu-ture's broad-ening way.

tell me thy se-cret: help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care,  
 teach me the way-ward feet to stay, and guide them in the home-ward way,  
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that tri-umphs o-ver wrong,  
 in peace that on-ly thou canst give, with thee, O Mas-ter, let me live.

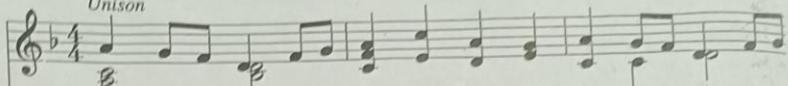
WORDS: Washington Gladden (1836-1918)

MARYTON

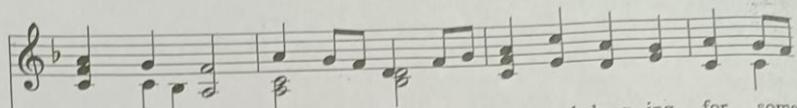
Please remember when you are at Bethany for any reason to make sure all doors are closed and all lights are turned off. On two different occasions I have come to church and found both the front and rear door slightly ajar. Since someone is not here every day this could cause problems. It just takes a minute to make sure the door is properly latched. Open interior doors could create a problem if we were to get a surprise fire inspection. Also, if you have an event in Fellowship Hall, please make sure all trash is removed and all leftover food and drink are removed from the refrigerator. Thank you, Bethany

# 245 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

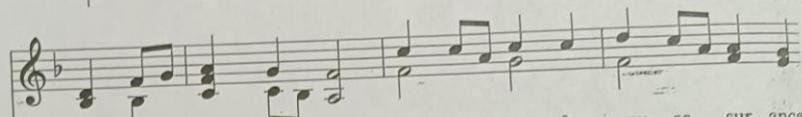
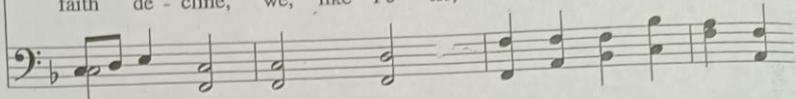
*Unison*



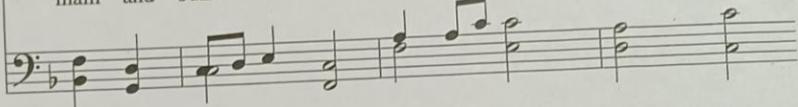
1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and  
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the  
 3 Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our



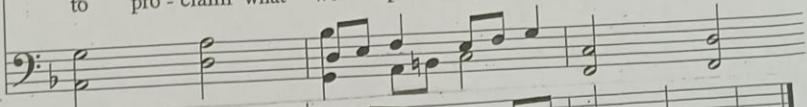
ho - ly place, where we wait with hope and long - ing for some  
 flesh - joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the  
 faith de - cline, we, like Pe - ter, find it tempt - ing to re -



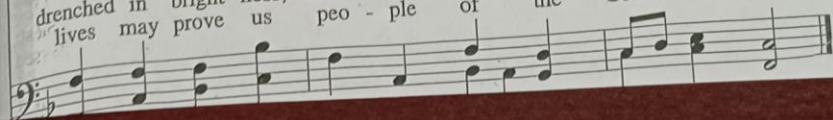
to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as - sur - ance  
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with won - der  
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us cour - age



that our faith is not in vain, search - ing like those  
 how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with gar - ment  
 to pro - claim what we pro - fess, that our dai - ly



first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.  
 drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.  
 lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.



## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 Transfiguration Sunday**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with reception of  
New Members.

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 President's Day**

Office Closed

7PM              Darts All Star Match

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 Fastnacht Day**

9:30AM              1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 Ash Wednesday**

5:30PM              Handbell Rehearsal

7PM                  Ash Wednesday Service

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

9:30AM              1:30PM Office Hours

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary

## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**Well, it seems Pastor Todd is hungry for Pancakes and Sausage, so that means Bethany is having a breakfast! Join us on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> at either 9 or 10am to enjoy a breakfast of Pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee or tea. We will keep the cost at \$7/ person. As always, the Rumbles will man the kitchen so we know the food will be tasty. Mark your calendars and watch for ticket sales.**