

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



February 26, 2023

First 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

February 26, 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: "On Eagles' Wings" with "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" Michael Joncas ...arr. Carol Torquin
Rebecca Kesselring

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

P: Blessed is the one whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit.

L: Many are the pangs of the wicked; but steadfast love surrounds him who trusts in the Lord.

C: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

*HYMN: #244 O Love, How Deep, How Broad vs. 1,2,3

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Most holy God, before you feel the limitations of our human power and goodness. Yet we thank you that your forgiveness is as eternal as your righteousness. Teach us never to doubt your love, but always to trust in you, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #270 O How He Loves You and Me**

O how he loves you and me, O how he loves you and me; he gave his life – what more could he give? O how he loves you, O how he loves me, O how he loves you and me!

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 32

Romans 5: 12-19

*Matthew 4: 1-11

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “Alone with Satan”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

**OFFERTORY: “On Eagles Wings” ...arr. M Hayes
Chancel Choir**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Savior Thy Dying Love vs.1**

Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me, Nor should I aught with-hold, Dear Lord, from Thee; in love my soul would bow, My heart fulfil its vow, Some offering bring Thee now, Something for Thee.

***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 – LITANY AS LENT BEGINS (pgs. 10-11)- 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: #252 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

***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!



Please use the Blue Hymnals

FLOWERS

BULLETINS

GREETERS: Len Kesselring

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring

LAY READER: Beverly Rumble

Scriptures

Psalm 32 NRSV

- ¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*
- ⁵ 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*
- ⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
- ⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*
- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- ⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
- ¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Romans 5: 12 - 19 NRSV

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Matthew 4: 1 – 11 NRSV

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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!

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 26th @ 4pm. Tickets range from \$9-\$45.

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

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

Litany as Lent Begins

Leader: O God, as the days lengthen and the light grows stronger, we thank Thee for the season of Lent when we remember the depth and wonder of faith in Christ.

People: Let thy Light shine through us.

Leader: Lord God, Thou has called us to discipline and to service, to follow in the footsteps of him who serves.

People: Teach us the discipline of faith that we may be free from all that enslaves us.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Thou didst demand that men and women turn away from former ways and deny themselves, taking up a cross to follow Thee.

People: Make us a willing to deny ourselves that we may truly be thy servants.

Leader: Spirit of God, enter our hearts and minds that we may truly be Thy servants.

People: Accept our praise for the Spirit that enable us to participate in Christ.

Leader: We recall at this time, O Lord God, how Jesus did give himself in love for us, suffering for our sakes, dying that we might live.

People: Our eyes have beheld the glory and the triumph of Christ through suffering.

Leader: We behold the cross and see gathered around that cross those who put Christ there. And, we confess our own involvement.

People: We were there, O God, involved in that dark event.

Leader: Still in wonder, Gracious God, we know that Christ went to the cross freely for our sakes taking our sins upon him and setting us free.

People: We rejoice in the light and love that come into our lives as we stand in the shadow of the cross.

Leader: The words of the prophet have been fulfilled in our time: "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquity, the chastisement of our peace was upon him. By his Stripes we are healed."

People: We thank Thee, O God, for the freedom, the peace and the wholeness that is ours through Christ.

Leader: Take from our minds all that would keep us from focusing on Christ, who died that we might have life.

People: As he gave himself for us so we give ourselves to him in lives of love and gratitude.

All: Amen

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

7PM Darts @ East Hills

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

No Rehearsals

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

PANCAKE BREAKFAST MARCH 18TH

Well, it seems Pastor Todd is hungry for Pancakes and Sausage, so that means Bethany is having a breakfast!

Join us on Saturday March 18th 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 under 5 eats free. As always, the Rumbles will man the kitchen so we know the food will be tasty. Mark your calendars and watch for ticket sales.

NEEDED

Someone to clean up leaves and debris around the church, mostly on the 5th Ave. side. Let the office know.

O Love, How Deep, How Broad 244

1 O Love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us he prayed, for us he taught, for us his
 4 For us to e - vil power be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in
 5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so

thought and fan - ta - sy: that God, the Son of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and
 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 went on high to reign; for us he sent his
 deep, so high, so broad— the Trin - i - ty whom

God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 sharp he knew, for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
 cross and death, for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 Spir - it here to guide, to com - fort, and to cheer.
 we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

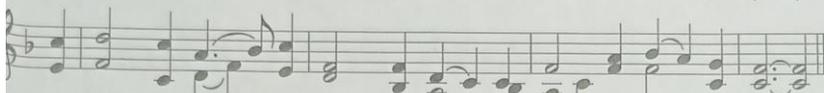
WORDS: Latin hymn, 15th c.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt.
 MUSIC: Trier manuscript, 15th c.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621);

PUER NOB
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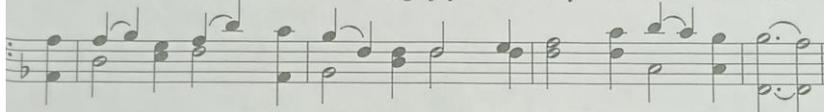
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 252



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,
3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4 And thro' these days of pen - i - tence, and thro' your Pas - sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,



teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con - quer sin.
to die to self, and so to live by your most ho - ly Word.
for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!



RDS: Claudia F. Hernaman (1838-1898), alt.

SIC: American melody, adapt.; harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

LAND OF REST
C.M.