

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



March 12, 2023

Third 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

March 12, 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

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING FOR ALZHEIMERS  
RESEARCH

PRELUDE: "Savior's Shadow" ...B. Shelton  
Banjo & Vocal Bob Ruhe

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This is the season of Lent, a season to remember the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

**C: A season to remember that to follow Christ is to take up our crosses and to be servants of all.**

L: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and grace to help in time of need.

**C: Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe. Let us worship God!**

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

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of justice and righteousness, deliver us from complacency about our lives and the world in which we live. Drive out from us careless sin. Make us sensitive to**

**all that is sacred; shock us with awareness of any violation of human life in which we participate. May our standard be Your Spirit, and not the ways of this world, 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 95: 1-7

Romans 5: 1-11

\*John 4: 5-42

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: The Rock! By Rev. Tex Culton

MISSION MOMENT: One Great Hour of Sharing ...Tim Rumble

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Fill My Cup Lord" ...R. Blanchard  
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 – 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: #432 As Water to the Thirsty

\*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!***



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are placed in memory of Dolly Ackerman by her husband Fred.

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto

USHERS: Barbara Backensto, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Bill Rumble

## Scriptures

### Psalm 95: 1 - 7 NRSV

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is the great God,  
the great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

<sup>7</sup> for he is our God  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care.

Today, if only you would hear his voice!

### Romans 5: 1 - 11 NRSV

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the

hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **John 4: 5 - 42 NRSV**

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than

our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." <sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." <sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." <sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he." <sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" <sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him. <sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” <sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” <sup>34</sup> “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. <sup>35</sup> Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.” <sup>39</sup> Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. <sup>41</sup> And because of his words many more became believers. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

## **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 under 5 eats free. Today is the last day to purchase tickets so don't leave without seeing Bev Rumble!**



## Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

Bethany completed all three of our volunteer nights at the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter for the 2022-2023 season on Friday, March 3rd. I can't believe the shelter season is almost over already! It flew by so quickly. I'm thankful that this winter was as mild as it was for our homeless neighbors and I hope I did not just jinx them by saying that! I have said it before and I will say it again, over and over, THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers and bakers and to those of you who provided monetary donations throughout this season! Your generosity once again helped make our last dinner a success. A special thank you goes out to 2brothers Pizzeria & Restaurant in Laurys Station for the donation of the homemade sauce for our meatball subs. We served 65 guests as well as our volunteers and shelter staff. We had lots of requests for seconds and plenty leftover. Thank you also to those of you who purchased the leftover meatballs and sauce. We still have two containers of sauce in the freezer available for purchase for \$5 apiece. Our Valentine's Day meal of Chicken Corn Chowder was also a success and thank you to those of you who purchased the leftover corn chowder as well. It was delicious! All of the proceeds from the sale of the chowder and the meatballs and sauce will go toward purchasing the meals for next season so we are already ahead of the game!

On a personal note, thank you for the opportunity to be Bethany's Volunteer Coordinator this year. It was scary for me at first, but the teamwork from the superb Bethany congregation and the grace of our Lord made everything work out! I'm looking forward to working with you again in the Fall!

Love and Blessings, Sherri Gangewere

# 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee". It features a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines, with the first line starting at the beginning of the first staff and the fourth line ending at the end of the second staff. The lyrics are: "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,". Below the first staff, there are four lines of lyrics: "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."

## March Fundraisers

As we heard at the annual meeting we need to bring in additional income so this month gives you three opportunities to help. First, we are selling flowers to decorate both the church and your home for Easter. You have your choice of Tulips, daffodils, and mums. The cost is \$10 each and order forms are on the radiator in the Sanctuary. Second, we will be taking orders for Easter Candy from Chocolates on Broadway until March 26<sup>th</sup>. Order forms are in the narthex. Third it's time for nuts! We will be selling peanuts, cashews, and almonds for \$5 per bag. Please place your orders by March 20<sup>th</sup> in order to enjoy these holiday treats. Thanks in advance for your help and orders.

## As Water to the Thirsty

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*Unison*

1 As wa - ter to the thirst - y, as beau - ty to the eyes, as  
 2 Like calm in place of clam - or, like peace that fol - lows pain, like  
 3 As sleep that fol - lows fe - ver, as gold in - stead of gray, as

strength that fol - lows weak - ness, as truth in - stead of lies, as  
 meet - ing af - ter part - ing, like sun - shine af - ter rain, like  
 free - dom af - ter bond - age, as sun - rise to the day, as

song - time and spring - time and sum - mer - time to be, so  
 moon - light and star - light and sun - light on the sea, so  
 home to the trav - eler and all we long to see, so

is my Lord, my liv - ing Lord, so is my Lord to me.

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 12**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with guest Rev. Tex Culton as well as Joyful Noise for Alzheimer's Research.

### **MONDAY, MARCH 13**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM          Darts @ Star of Bethlehem

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 14**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**

No Rehearsals

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 16**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM          Consistory in FH

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 18**

9&10AM Breakfast in FH

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 19**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with OGHS



We would like to welcome Rev. Tex Culton this morning as Pastor and Jean take a trip to visit family. Also, a thank you to Matt Miller for helping with today's service.