

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



April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

"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

April 16, 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: "Thine is the Glory" ...Handel, arr. L. Smith
Piano-Rebecca Kesselring/Organ-Susan Wright

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept!

People: Break forth into joy, sing together, for God has comforted those whose hearts were broken in sorrow.

Pastor: Since by human sin came death, so by human faithfulness came resurrection of the dead.

All: Thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ, our Lord! Amen.

*HYMN: #118 Lord of the Dance

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Dear God, on this day of joy, we confess that we have not always witnessed to the joy of our faith. On this day of good news, we confess that we have not always witnessed to the new life of our faith. Forgive us, O God, of our silence and neglect to be Your people. Hear now

the sins of our lives and restore us to be Your resurrected people. (pause for personal petitions)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #291 Alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord, Alleluia,
alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

READING OF SCRIPTURES

I Peter 1: 3-9

*John 20: 19- 31

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "While Thomas Was Away"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Now the Green Blade Rises"

Chancel Choir

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #34 Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION page 7

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: #287 Lift High the Cross

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #305 He is Lord
He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are sponsored by Len & Rebecca Kesselring for the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Alleluia! He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Michael Reiniger

Scriptures

I Peter 1: 3 - 9 NRSV

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:19 - 31 NRSV

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy

Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Spring Rummage Sale!

Well, it's time for Spring Cleaning, and what better motivation than to supply Bethany with items for the rummage sale scheduled for Friday May 5th from 9-2 and 4-8. Also, they will be open Sat. May 6th from 9-2.

Donations of clothing and other small items can be brought to Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed for the sale as well as donations of food and baked goods.

Look for sign up sheets in the narthex. Gail Correll is again chairing this fundraiser.

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.

Lord of the Dance

Unison G Em Bm Em

1 I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they
 3 I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame, the
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black; it's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high,

Am D7

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would not fol - low me; I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they
 I am the life that - 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

G Em Bm Em

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high; and they
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Am D7 C/G G Refrain G Bm

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the Dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, where -
 I am the Dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

JESUS CHRIST

ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where - ev - er you may

be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'I am the Lord of the Dance'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a guitar accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. Chords are indicated above the guitar line. The first system has chords Em and G. The second system has chords Am/C, D, D7/C, G, C/G, G/D, and D7/C. The third system has chords G/B, Am/C, Am, D7, G, C/G, and G. The title 'JESUS CHRIST' is partially visible at the top right.

The Envelopes Have Arrived!

Better late than never, our church envelopes have arrived. They are located in the Narthex, so please stop in and pick them up on Sunday.

Darts

Congratulations to our Dart Team for winning the League Championship! On to the final matches on the 17th at Crosspoint!

Lift High the Cross

EASTER

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Refrain (Unison)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

Verse (parts)

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

to Refrain

our King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary as we celebrate communion.

MONDAY, APRIL 17

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours
7PM Dart Championship @ Crosspoint Church

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

No Bells
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Office Closed

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary.

Handbell choir is off this Wednesday, but remember they will rehearse on Wednesday April 26th.

Apologies to Linda Hollabaugh whose mum was not included in last Sunday's bulletin. She placed this flower in memory of Wayne C, Love of my life and Richard B, Light of my life.