

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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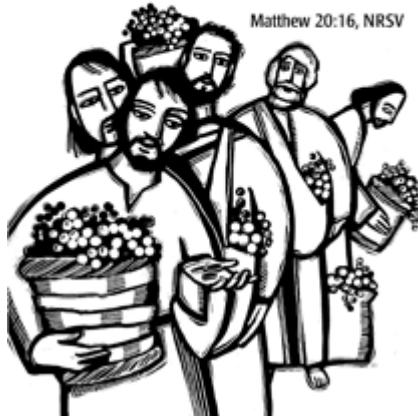
Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music

So the **last**  
will be **FIRST**,  
and the  
**first**  
will be **LAST**.

Matthew 20:16, NRSV



September 24, 2023 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

## “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

September 24, 2023

10:45 AM

We encourage our visitors to include their name, address, and phone number in the Guest Book at the top of the steps and come again. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission 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: Jubilate Deo Omnis Terra ... D. P. Benoit  
(Shout with Joy to God All over the Earth)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**C: Great is our God and greatly to be praised.**

L: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**C: This generation will tell the next generation so they may tell the next generation of the Holy One's magnificent and mighty acts.**

L: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**C: We declare the abundant goodness, gracious righteousness, and holy love of our God. Praise the Holy One!**

\*HYMN: #136 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Mighty God, we enter Your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as Your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek Your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal Your will and display Your glory among Your people as we worship Your holy name. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #657 He Has Made Me Glad

**I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter His courts with praise. I will say, "This is the day that the Lord has made!" I will rejoice for He has made me glad. He has made me glad; He has made me glad I will rejoice for He has made me glad. He has made me glad. He has made me glad I will rejoice for He has made me glad.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1: 21-30

\*Matthew 20: 1-16

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Lasting Truth"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" ...arr.  
Young Chancel Choir

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #688 We Give thee But Thine Own vs.1

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to us and through us with abundance and flourishing. Give us generous hearts. May our offerings offer a testimony honoring your provision and giving glory to your name. Receive these gifts and magnify them for the needs of your creation. 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: #48 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 Blest Be the Tie That Binds vs.1

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

## POSTLUDE

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



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

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Barbara Backensto, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Barbara Reiniger

## Scriptures

### **Philippians 1: 21 - 30 NRSV**

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. <sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## Matthew 20: 1 – 16 NRSV

**20** “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

## Rummage Sale

Rummage Sale donations can now be brought to Bethany for the Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> sale. Please bring them to the Sunday school room to the right of the stage. Also please sign up for any help that you are able to give or contact Sharon Haines @ [momhainesx4@al.com](mailto:momhainesx4@al.com) or 610-570-9166 Thank you!

### *Task Force*

*Bethany now has a Task Force to work on the Futuring Project. Serving are Eric Derr, Matt Miller, Lisa Nguyen, Dick Roberts, Sherri Gangewere and Corey Tancin. Please keep the Task Force in your prayers.*

## Sue's Anniversary

**Please remember to let the office know if you will be attending the service and luncheon on October 15<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Susan Wright's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary here at Bethany. The deadline to sign up is Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

10:45AM                      Worship with us as we return to the sanctuary.

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

9:30AM            1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM                Darts @ Bethany vs. Trinity UCC  
Beeline Articles Due

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

9:30AM            1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

No Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

9:30AM            1:30PM Office Hours

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**

10:45AM                      Worship in the Sanctuary with World Wide Communion and offering for Neighbors in Need





# 136 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 48

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.