

# 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



October 1, 2023 World Wide Communion

**“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

October 1, 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: Largo ...G. F. Handel  
Trombone – Tim Rumble

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather as God's people to celebrate the beauty of our diversity.

**C: Let us love each other as God loves us beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image.**

L: We give thanks for who we are, Beloved of God.

**C: Let us open our hearts to God's spirit of love and unity.**

L: We celebrate the gifts of all gathered here today.

**C: Let us worship God with all we are and celebrate the beauty of all God's creation.**

\*HYMN: #696 Come, Share the Lord

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Lord Jesus, we confess we have been dishonest in our walk with you. We have not treated others with respect and acceptance and have not cared for the least of these as you have called us to do. We acknowledge that too many times, we have taken the effortless way to our benevolence and have mistreated those in need and with judgment. We ask your forgiveness for all we have done that is not pleasing to you, Oh Lord. We ask your mercy on us. Amen!**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*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

Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2: 1-13

\*Matthew 21: 23-32

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Unity and Humility"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & GIFTS (Neighbors in Need)

OFFERTORY: "Come, Share This Feast of Love" ...L.  
Larson 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 ask that you bless these offerings and  
tithes so they can multiply to be a blessing for our  
community, our mission, and worldwide. Accept our  
offerings and tithes, O God, as a testimony of your  
goodness in our lives. Amen!**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (pg.9)

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: #702 We Come as Guests Invited

\*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 placed in honor of the 29<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jenna Nguyen and the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of Erin Nguyen by Minh, Lisa and Kaitlin Nguyen

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Beverly Rumble

## Scriptures

### **Psalm 78: 1 - 4, 12 – 16 NRSV**

- <sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- <sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- <sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.
- <sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD and his might  
and the wonders that he has done.
- <sup>12</sup> In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels  
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
- <sup>13</sup> He divided the sea and let them pass through it

and made the waters stand like a heap.

<sup>14</sup> In the daytime he led them with a cloud  
and all night long with a fiery light.

<sup>15</sup> He split rocks open in the wilderness  
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

<sup>16</sup> He made streams come out of the rock  
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

## **Philippians 2: 1 - 13 NRSV**

**2** If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## **Matthew 21: 23 – 32 NRSV**

<sup>23</sup> When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

### **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!**

## Popcorn Sale

Do you like popcorn? Consistory approved a fundraiser for Bethany from Double Good Popcorn. There are 8 super fresh flavors and sets of flavors are available. What is amazing about this fundraiser is that we keep 50% of earnings. Please help with orders for yourself or other family members and friends. Order forms with the money is due back to Sherri Gangewere by Sunday, October 22. Checks should be made out to Bethany UCC. Orders would be delivered by mid-November. Thank You!

## 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 today Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## Neighbors in Need

As we place our offerings in the plate for NIN please remember the local neighbors we can help each time we shop. Our local food bank at Star of Bethlehem is suffering from empty shelves and many in need. If you would like to help donations can be dropped off there, please contact the church @ 610-865-2684.

## Trick or Treat

**Trick or treat falls on Friday Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> and we would like to continue our tradition of handing our candy and water in front of the church. Please bring in donations to the narthex for distribution, and let the office know if you would like to help.**



## 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

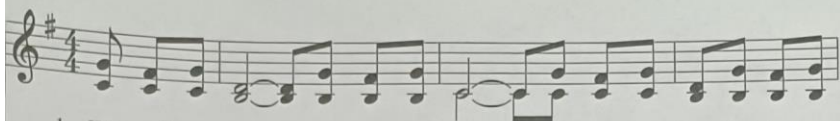
**Congregational Response: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know You as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen**

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.**

## Come, Share the Lord



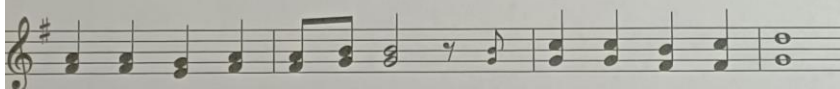
- 1 We gath-er here in Je - sus' name, his love is burn-ing in our  
 2 He joins us here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who pours the cup is  
 3 We'll gath-er soon where an - gels sing; we'll see the glo - ry of our



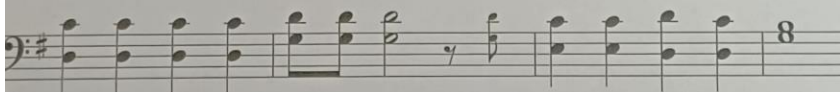
hearts like liv - ing flame; for through his lov - ing Son the Fa - ther  
 ris - en from the dead; the one we love the most is now our  
 Lord and com - ing King; now we an - tic - i - pate the feast for

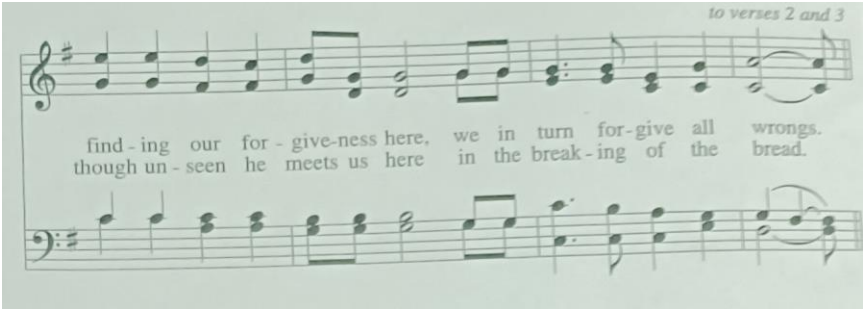


makes us one: come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.  
 gra - cious host: come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.  
 which we wait: come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.



- (1) No one is a stran - ger here, † ev - ery - one be - longs;  
 (2) We are now a fam - i - ly of which the Lord is head;





## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**

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

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 2**

9:30AM                      1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM                          Darts @ East Hills

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3**

9:30AM                      1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4**

5:30PM                      Handbell Rehearsal  
7PM                          Chancel Choir Rehearsal

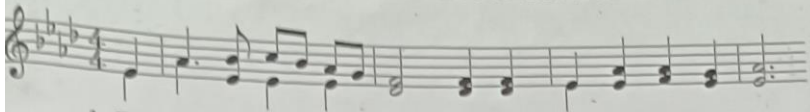
### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5**

9:30AM                      1:30PM Office Hours

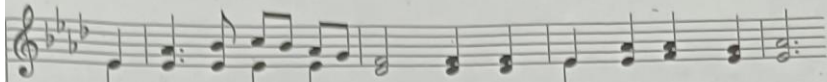
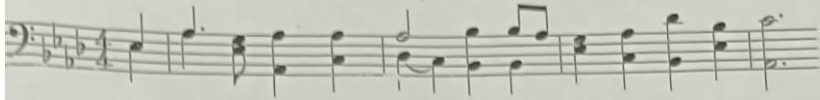
### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

10:45AM                      Worship in the Sanctuary

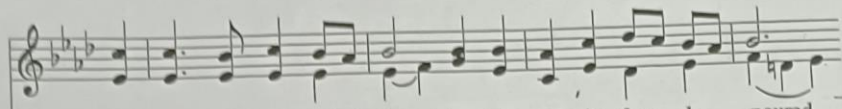
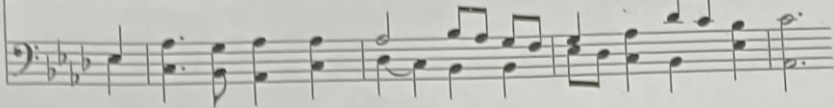
# We Come as Guests Invited 702



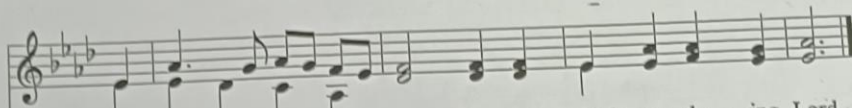
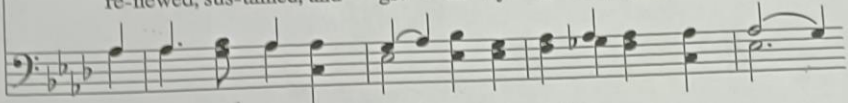
1 We come as guests in - vit - ed when Je - sus bids us dine,  
 2 We eat and drink, re - ceiv - ing from Christ the grace we need,  
 3 One bread is ours for shar - ing, one sin - gle fruit - ful vine,



his friends on earth u - nit - ed to share the bread and wine;  
 and in our hearts be - liev - ing on him by faith we feed;  
 our fel - low - ship de - clar - ing re - newed in bread and wine:



the bread of life is bro - ken, the wine is free - ly poured  
 with won - der and thanks - giv - ing for love that knows no  
 re - newed, sus - tained, and giv - en by to - ken, sign, and word,



for us, in sol - - emn to - ken of Christ our dy - ing Lord.  
 we find in Je - sus liv - ing our ev - er - pres - ent friend.  
 the pledge and seal of heav - en, the love of Christ our Lord.

