

# 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 22, 2023 Twenty-first 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

October 22, 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: "Simple Gifts" ...trad. Shaker hymn, arr. Phillip Keveren  
Piano – Cindy Cressman

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

**C: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.**

L: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of the Lord.

**C: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.**

L: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

**C: God is worthy to be praised!**

\*HYMN: #56 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Revealing God, you show us the way of life, lead us with love, and move us to compassion. May our hearts**

**be transformed by your Spirit and by your Truth. Let our actions and attitudes demonstrate your kindom. May justice and peace be our hope. Let repair, restoration, and reconciliation be our aim. Make your presence among us known. Let us prepare to receive it. 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**

Psalm 96: 1 - 9

I Thessalonians 1: 1-10

\*Matthew 22: 15 – 22

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON: “Ascribe to the Lord” Rev. William “Tex” Culton**

**FUTURING PROJECT UPDATE: It’s Your Turn ... Matt Miller**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & GIFTS (Neighbors in Need)**

OFFERTORY: "The Lone Wild Bird "... Southern Folk Tune,  
arr. D. N. Johnson                      Chancel Choir  
(the image of the bird is mirrored by the image of the Holy  
Spirit...the Grace of God is everywhere)  
Aerophone mini – Jerry Lee Miller

\*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!**

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: #63 Give to our God Immortal Praise

\*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 & Rebecca Kesselring

GREETERS: Gail Correll

USHERS: Volunteers

LAY READER: Gail Correll

**Scriptures**

**Psalm 96: 1 - 9 NRSV**

- 1 O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD; bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.
- 6 Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

## **I Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10 NRSV**

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. <sup>2</sup> We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons, we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup> For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

## **Matthew 22: 15 - 22 NRSV**

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere,

and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" <sup>21</sup> They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

### **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 today Sunday, October 22. Checks should be made out to Bethany UCC. Orders would be delivered by mid-November. Thank You!**

Dear Bethany Family,

A very big thank you to everyone who helped with the rummage sale in any way. To all those who donated items to sell to those who donated items for the kitchen to sell or made soups or baked goods. Thank you also to everyone who worked in the kitchen during the sale and to those who unpacked and repacked boxes. The total profit for the sale was \$1020.

Thank You!

Sharon Haines

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22**

10:45AM                      Worship in the Sanctuary  
With Rev. William "Tex" Culton

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 23**

Office Closed

7PM                      Darts @ Fritz Wesleyan (Crosspoint)

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24**

9:30AM                      1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25**

No Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26**

9:30AM                      1:30PM Office Hours

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**

5:30 to 8:30 Trick or Treat @ Bethany

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

10:45AM                      Worship in the Sanctuary as we collect  
Joyful Noise to be donated for Breast Cancer Research

### **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. We are in need of candy. If you are unable to get out and would like to contribute funds to purchase candy, please drop your funds at the office no later than Tuesday.**



# Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above 56

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -  
 2 What God's al - might - y power has made, in mer - cy he is  
 3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy  
 4 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God the praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our  
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his eye is nev -  
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with peace  
 glo - ry. Let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the won -

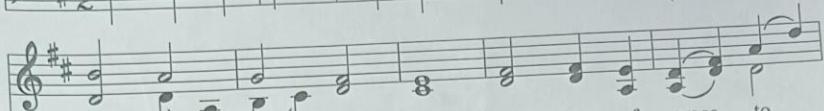
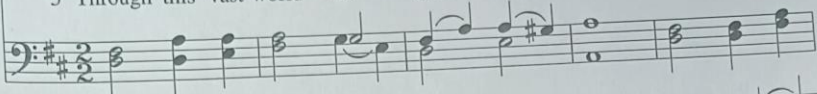
sal - va - tion. My soul with com - fort rich he fills, and  
 er - sleep - ing. And where he rules in king - ly might, there  
 to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who  
 drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne; the

ev - ery grief he gent - ly stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
 is by one and all a - dored: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
 Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry!

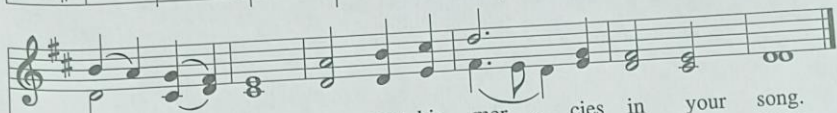
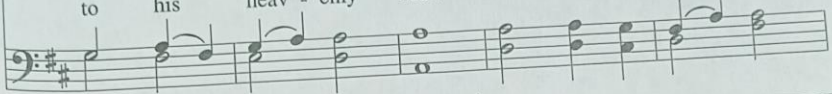
# Give to Our God Immortal Praise 63



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise; mer - cy and  
 2 He built the earth, he spread the sky, and fixed the  
 3 He fills the sun with morn - ing light; he bids the  
 4 He sent His Son with power to save from guilt and  
 5 Through this vast world he guides our feet, and leads us



truth are all his ways: won - ders of grace to  
 star - ry lights on high: won - ders of grace to  
 moon di - rect the night: his mer - cies ev - er  
 dark - ness and the grave: won - ders of grace to  
 to his heav - enly seat: his mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
 shall en - dure, when suns and moons shall shine no more.  
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
 shall en - dure, when this our world shall be no more.

