

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

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



For when the **foolish** took their lamps,
they **took no oil** with them,
but the **wise** took
flasks of oil with their lamps.

Matthew 25:3-4

November 12, 2023

Twenty-Fourth 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

November 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.

**(*) PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE
(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, let us worship the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to God and reconsecrate our lives anew.

L: God has been good to us and we are a vital part of God's family.

P: The Lord's name be praised! Amen!

*HYMN: #111 When Morning Gilds the Skies

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, giver of all things, we thank You for blessing our lives and for giving us this church to praise You and serve You. Help us to be better stewards of Your gifts and to become more cheerful and more generous in the giving of our lives. To Your glory, we pray. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #734 Glory Be to The Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 78: 1-7

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

* Matthew 25: 1-13

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Pew Snoozers or Staying Awake"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Give Me Oil In My Lamp" ...M. V. Exner
Helvey Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #34 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

Holy God, You are the maker of heaven and earth. Accept these offerings we present to You today. May they become vessels of support for your work in this church and in Your world. Consecrate us anew as living sacrifices, to Your service. In Jesus name we pray, 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: #112 You Servants of God

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #719 Go, My Children ... vs.4

**I the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I, the Lord, will smile upon you and give you peace: I,
the Lord, will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and
Brother, Go, my children, I will keep you and give you
peace.**

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: are placed in loving memory of my father Edwin M. Ruhe on the anniversary of his death November 8th by Robert and Annette Ruhe

BULLETINS: Are placed in honor of all those who served and in memory of those who gave the last true measure of devotion to their country and fellow brothers and sisters by Leonard C. and Rebecca A. Kesselring.

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Steve Tarasuk

LAY READER: Mike Reiniger

Scriptures

Psalm 78: 1 – 7 NRSV

1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,

3 things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

4 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.

5 He established a decree in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children,

6 that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,

7 so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18 NRSV

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who

are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25: 1 - 13 NRSV

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



The Congregational Futuring Task Force visited three area UCC congregations during September and October. They attended worship, toured the building, reviewed annual reports and newsletters, and met with the pastor and consistory members for questions and conversation. Of the three, the task force felt that St. John's UCC on William Penn Highway would not be a good fit. However, two other congregations gained positive ratings from the Task Force Members.

We now want you to visit and experience Sunday worship at these two:

**St. Thomas UCC 902 E. Macada Rd. Bethlehem
Rev. Debra Hess, Pastor WORSHIP at 10:15 AM
Website: stthomasuccbeth.org**

**St. John's UCC (Fullerton) 575 Grape St.
Whitehall Rev. Steve Davis, Pastor WORSHIP at
9:30 AM Website: stjohnsuccfullerton.org**

- 1. Make your worship visit on 19, or 26**
- 2. There are Packets in the rear of the Sanctuary with Worship Evaluation Forms so you can make notes about your visits. Also, there is a sheet listing the Amenities and Leadership elements of each congregation.**
- 3. Gather on December 3 after worship with the rest of the Bethany congregation for a time of discussion about your visits.**

**Both Churches are also offering services on
Thanksgiving Eve @ 7pm**

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

7PM Darts @ Trinity UCC

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

5:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 Harvest Home

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary, join us as we
celebrate Thanksgiving and collect canned goods for those
in need.



111 When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a-wak-ing cries,
 2 Does sad-ness fill my mind? A sol-ace here I find,
 3 The night be-comes as day, when from the heart we say,
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can-ti-cle di-vine,

may Je-sus Christ be praised! A-like at work and prayer
 may Je-sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth-ly bliss?
 may Je-sus Christ be praised! The powers of dark-ness fear
 may Je-sus Christ be praised! Be this th'e-ter-nal song

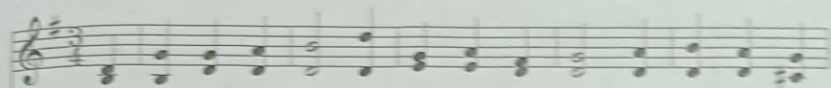
to Je-sus I re-pair, may Je-sus Christ be praised!
 My com-fort still is this, may Je-sus Christ be praised!
 when this sweet chant they hear, may Je-sus Christ be praised!
 through all the a-ges long, may Je-sus Christ be praised!

LAUDES DOM
6.6.6.

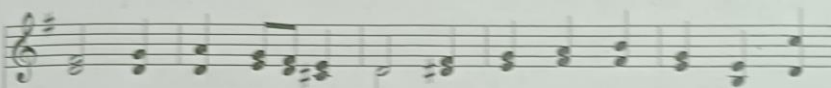
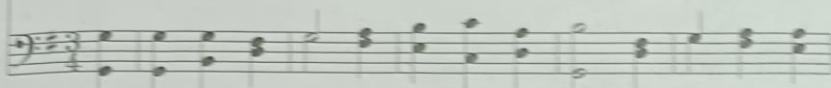
... 1828; tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

You Servants of God

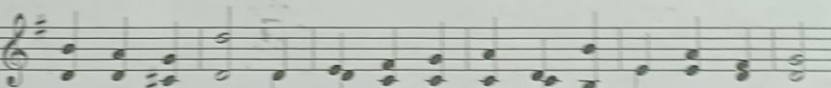
112



1 You serv-ants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a-
 2 God rules in the heights, al-might-y to save; though hid from our
 3 "Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne!" let all cry a-
 4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name all-vic-to-rious of
 sight, his pres-ence we have; the great con-gre-ga-tion his-
 loud and hon-or the Son: the prais-es of Je-sus the
 power, all wis-dom and might: all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all.
 tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus our King,
 an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es and wor-ship the Lamb.
 an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fi-nite love.

