

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:00-1:00

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



*He himself
is before all
things, and in
him all things
hold together.*

COLOSSIANS 1:17, NRSV

November 26, 2023

Christ the King Sunday

“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 26, 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: Because He lives ...William J. Gaither ...Arr. by Fred Bock

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The King of Glory is here!

P: Who is the King of Glory?

L: Christ is the Lord, strong and mighty.

P: Who is the King of Glory?

L: Christ is the Lord of hosts.

P: Praise the Lord God! He is with us!

*HYMN: #435 Like a River Glorious

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Lord God, let all the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of Jesus Christ; where justice, righteousness and peace reign. Rule in our hearts and minds, that we may be children of Your kingdom and active servants of Your love and grace. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #102 His Name is Wonderful

His name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord; he is the mighty King, Master of everything, his name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 95: 1-7

Colossians 1:1-19

* Matthew 25: 31-46

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Reign Man"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "At the Name of Jesus" and "Christ Is the King"
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

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: # 148 Come Thou Almighty King

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #719 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 and BULLETINS: are dedicated to the honor and
Glory of God by Len and Rebecca Kesselring, because he
lives, we can face tomorrow.

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto, Lisa Williams

USHERS: Gail Correll, Barbara Backensto

LAY READER: Bob Ruhe

Scriptures

Psalm 95: 1 – 7 NRSV

¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
³ For the LORD is a great God
and a great King above all gods.
⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!

Colossians 1: 1-19 NRSV

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful

minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Matthew 25: 31 - 46 NRSV

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you

gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 Christ the King Sunday

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

Deadline for December Beeline Articles

7PM Darts vs. College Hill

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

8:15PM Live Nativity Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion
Conversations about recent church visits

POINSETTIA PLANTS



Anyone wishing to place a poinsettia plant in our Sanctuary to help decorate and beautify our church for the Christmas holidays, is asked to fill in the necessary information below and return it to the church office accompanied by your payment. Checks are payable to "Bethany

UCC" marked Poinsettia in your memo area. **The deadline for all orders is Sunday, December 17.**

RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO CHURCH OFFICE

_____ Red Poinsettias @ \$10.00 a plant

IN MEMORY OF _____ or
(circle one)

IN HONOR OF _____

Please place in bulletin as follows:

Given by: _____

_____ DONATION ONLY (Money is given directly to the Church)

_____ I want the poinsettia plant(s)

TOTAL _____

Like a River Glorious

435

1 Like a riv - er glo - rious is God's per - fect peace, o - ver all vic -
 2 Hid - den in the hol - low of his bless - ed hand, nev - er foe can
 3 Ev - ery joy or tri - al fall - eth from a - bove, traced up - on our

to - rious in its bright in - crease; per - fect, yet it flow - eth full - er
 fol - low, nev - er trai - tor stand; not a surge of wor - ry, not a
 di - al by the Sun of Love; we may trust him ful - ly all for

ev - ery day, per - fect, yet it grow - eth deep - er all the way.
 shade of care, not a blast of hur - ry touch the spir - it there.
 us to do; they who trust him whol - ly find him whol - ly true.

Refrain

Stayed up - on Je - ho - vah, hearts are ful - ly blest,

find - ing, as he prom - ised, per - fect peace and rest.

Come, Thou Almighty King 148

1 Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy
 2 Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy
 3 Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing, help us to praise: Fa - ther, all
 might - y sword, our prayer at - tend: come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour: thou who al -
 prais - es be hence, ev - er - more! Thy sov - ereign

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess:
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

WORDS: Anonymous, ca. 1757
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini (1716-1796)

ITALIAN
 6.6.4