

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon and Fri 9:00-1:00 and Wed 1:00-5:00

Church Office: 610-868-4441

E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music

Rev. Dr. David H. DeRemer, Supply Pastor



January 21, 2024

Third Sunday after Epiphany

"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

January 21, 2024

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: "Communion" ...arr. R. Lau Schmucke Dich...J. Kruger. Land of rest...American folk melody

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: This is God's world! To us is given a vision of nations and races, lands and people, joined together in love.

C: Praise be to God, the creator, in whose image we are created.

P: We come to celebrate and renew that vision, opening ourselves to the One who is its source and its living fire.

C: We affirm in Christ that we can be, and are, one world and one family, working together to manifest God's rule in the lives of all people!

*HYMN: # 655 Come Away from Rush and Hurry

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of all joy, we give you thanks that in the Epiphany of Jesus Christ you have shown us the way to true life.

We praise you that you receive as your children those who seek peace and righteousness, and that you make your promise of abundant life to the humble, the merciful, and the pure in heart. Enable us, like Christ, to

find our happiness in doing your will, so that we too may live to love and serve you forever. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" Let us offer each other a sign of peace. 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 SCRIPTURES

Gen 9:8-17

*Mark 1:9-15

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Embracing God's Promise"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "We Gather At Your Table, Lord" ...W. Ehret
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #44 Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, you heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS, GIFTS AND SELF

God of Light. We present these gifts with love. We rejoice in our ability to share, but long to do more. Help us to be like the magi and carefully plan the gifts we bring you. May we not be satisfied with what is enough, but instead be inspired to do more. May these gifts be used so others may know the hope that is found in you. In His name, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (pg,7)

*HYMN: #446 O Love That Wilt Not let Me Go

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #717 Go Now in Peace vs.1

Go now in peace; though friends must part, your presence lives in every heart. Your gifts to us no words can tell: go now in peace, in Christ go well.

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Len Kesselring

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Beverly Rumble

Scriptures

Genesis 9: 8 - 17 NRSV

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Mark 1: 9 - 15 NRSV

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by

Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio recording of the worship service, please let Bill Rumble know at wrumble@ptd.net. A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link. Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent.

Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational Meeting is called by Consistory for Sunday Feb. 11, immediately after church. The agenda is to adopt a budget and consider issues regarding Bethany’s future. Committee chairpersons please submit reports by January 29 for inclusion in the Annual Report. Please plan to stay for this important meeting.

The Footprints Prayer

One night I had a dream...I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and Across the sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, There was only one set of footprints.

I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, You would walk with me all the way; But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, There is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you the most, you should leave me.

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never, never leave you during your times of trial and suffering.

When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you.

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.

M: Holy God, Our Loving Creator . . . [the prayer continues until] . . . as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

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.

The Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving(unison)

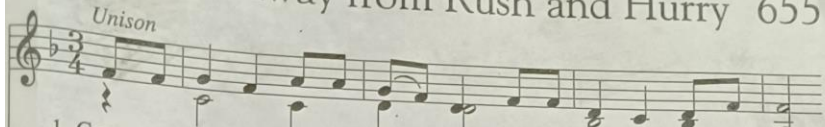
We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



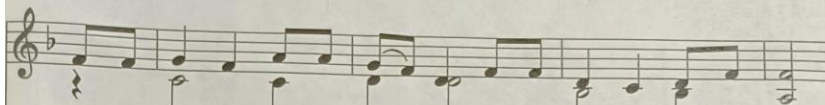
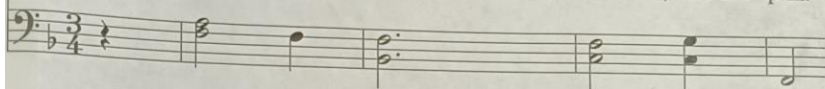
Come Away from Rush and Hurry 655

GATHERING

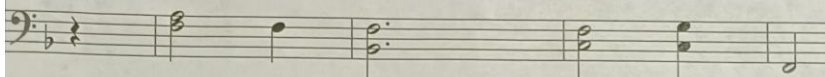
Unison



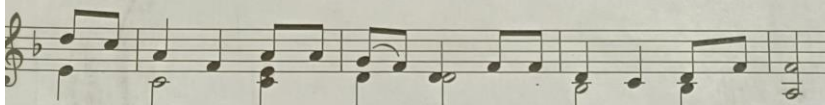
1 Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still-ness of God's peace;
2 In the pas-tures of God's good-ness we lie down to rest our soul.
3 Come, then, chil-dren, with your bur - dens—life's con - fu - sions, fears and pain.



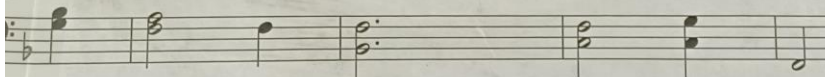
from our vain am - bi-tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king-dom's reign.



Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de-mands and fren-zied pace;
At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—he a - lone will sat - is - fy.



come to join the peo - ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's face.
With the oil of God's a - noint-ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.



TRUST & HOPE

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go 446

1 O Love that will not let me go,
 2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way,
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain,
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;
 I yield my flick - ering torch to thee;
 I can - not close my heart to thee;
 I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I give thee back the life I owe, that
 my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
 I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
 I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer. Join us as we celebrate our first communion of 2024.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours
7PM Darts @ Bethany vs. Trinity UCC

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

1PM 5PM Office Hours
No Rehearsals

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer.

From the Secretary,

Since things have changed here at Bethany there will be some changes made to the office hours. I will still be here three days a week but some of the days and times will change. Starting January 8th, I will work Monday from 9am – 1pm, Wednesday from 1pm – 5pm and Friday from 9am – 1pm. I will change the bulletin and answering machine to reflect these changes. As always it never hurts to call first if you are stopping by.

**Thank you,
Debbie**