

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



February 11, 2024

Transfiguration 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

February 11, 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: Sonata in A Minor Mvt.4 by G. P. Telemann
Flute by Meghann Wright

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We come to celebrate God's presence,

C: And God's love expressed through Jesus Christ.

P: We come remembering Christ's life and ministry,

C: And the lie we are called to live.

P: We come as a pilgrim people searching for ways to live out our faith.

C: We come seeking the strength to carry on our journey.

*HYMN: # 11 Stand Up and Bless the Lord

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of the faithful in every time, today you have called us into your church to be one body in Jesus Christ. You have bestowed upon us the gifts we need for your service. Grant that we may willingly take our part; that we may support one another; and that we may seek the greatest gift, which is love. Knead us together into one loaf with all your people throughout the world, through you Spirit of unity we pray. 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 22:1-18

*Matt 10:37-42

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Promise Proved"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

**OFFERTORY: "With a Voice of Singing" ... M. Shaw
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 and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Let them shine for all to see. 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: #16 The God of Abraham Praise**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
all verses**

**Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
Before our father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts
and our cares. We share our mutual woes, each other's
burdens bear; and often for each other flows the
sympathizing tear. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin
we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reigns
through all eternity.**

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: are in loving memory of Sharon Haines by her family.

BULLETINS: are presented by Len and Rebecca Kesselring to honor the Glory of God.

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Corey Tancin

LAY READER: Len Kesselring

Scriptures

Genesis 22: 1 - 18 NRSV

22 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb

for a burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide,” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Matt 10: 37 - 42 NRSV

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake

will find it.⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

2024 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance. Please note two vases will cost \$60. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30. Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk. We are now working with Country Rose Florist in Westgate.

Any questions, contact the church office.

As in the past, contact the office with your information for the bulletin no later than the Tuesday before your sponsored date. Thank you.

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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer. Meeting has been postponed.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours
7PM City/Suburban All Star Match

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 Ash Wednesday

1:00PM 5:00PM Office Hours
5:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7PM Ash Wednesday Service
Chancel Choir Rehearsal after Service

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

1:00PM 5:00PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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

From the Secretary,

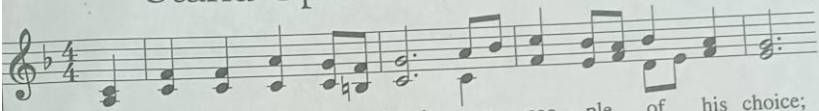
Since things have changed here at Bethany there will be some changes made to the office hours. I will still be here three days a week but some of the days and times will change. Starting January 8th, I will work Monday from 9am – 1pm, Wednesday from 1pm – 5pm and Friday from 9am – 1pm. I will change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

Thank you,

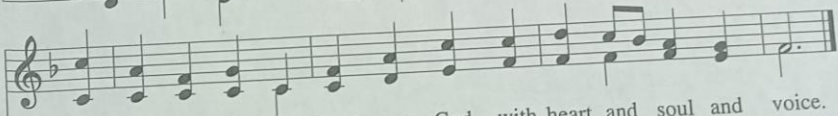
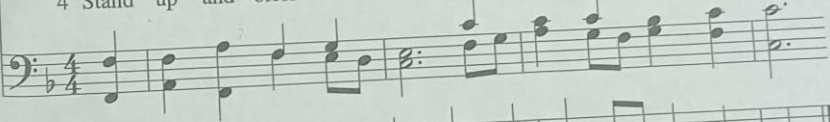
Debbie

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

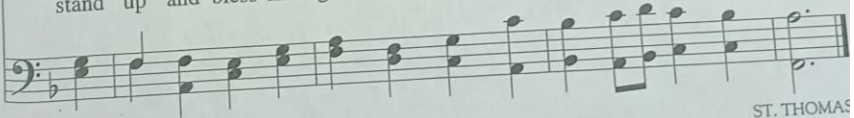
11



1 Stand up and bless the Lord, you peo - ple of his choice;
2 O for the liv - ing flame, from God's own al - tar brought,
3 God is our strength and song, and his sal - va - tion ours;
4 Stand up and bless the Lord, the Lord your God a - dore;



stand up and bless the Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.
to touch our lips, our minds in - spire, and wing to heaven our thought.
then be his love in Christ pro - claimed with all our ran - sored powers.
stand up and bless his glo - rious name, both now and ev - er - more.



ST. THOMAS
CM

The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 Your Spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will;
 3 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the an - cient of e - ter - nal days, the God of speak love!
 in proph - et's word you spoke of old and you still.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven con - fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change - less it shall stand,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name;

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea or land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for - e'er the same!