

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

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Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music

Rev. Dr. David H. DeRemer, Supply Pastor



**Jesus
on Trial
Before
Pilate**

March 24, 2024

Palm 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

March 24, 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: "Joy" with "All Glory, Laud and Honor" ...
Kenyin/Teschner Handbell Choir

ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM: Mark 11: 1-11

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

*HYMN: "The Palms" ...J. Faure
Trombone – Tim Rumble

**O'er all the way, green palms and blossoms gay,
Are strewn this day in festal preparation
Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.**

(Refrain)

**Join all and sing, His name declare,
Let ev'ry voice resound with joyous acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!
Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!**

**His word goes forth, and people by its might.
Freedom regain once more from degradation.
Humanity doth give to each his right.
While those in darkness are restored to light.**

(Refrain)

**Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.
(Refrain)**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

O God, we sing and praise you, strong in spirit, when we are among others who praise you too. But in times of stress, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us. We turn against you because we are too busy to seek you, too selfish to obey you. But you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you again. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

***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): #271 Lift
Up Your Heads**

Lift up your heads, to the coming King. Bow before him and adore him, sing! To his Majesty, Let your praises be pure and holy, giving glory to the King of kings.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Philippians 2: 5 - 11

***Mark 14: 66 – 72**

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Jesus and Pilate"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Come Sing Hosanna" (From Celebrate This Festival) ...H. Purcell Chancel Choir with Trombone

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Savior Thy Dying Love
Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me, Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from Thee; In love my soul would bow, My heart fulfil its vow, Some offering bring Thee now, Something for thee.

*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: All Glory Laud and Honor” ...arr. C. Dobrinski

**All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David’s royal Son,
Who in the Lord’s name comest, The King and blessed
One.**

**The company of angels are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things Created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we
present.**

**To thee, before thy passion they sang their hymns of
praise; To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we
bring, Who in all good delightest, Thou good and
gracious King.**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: 267 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Trombone & Congregation

**“Hosanna in the highest” That ancient song we sing, for
Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King. O
May we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!**

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are presented by Rebecca and Len Kesselring in honor of the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem!

GREETERS: Corey Tancin

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring

LAY READER: Rebecca Kesselring

Scriptures

Mark 11: 1 – 11

11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Psalms 118: 1 – 2, 19 - 29 NRSV

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.



Matthew 27: 15 - 26 NRSV

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.



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.

Please consider signing up to support these programs. For \$20 you can celebrate someone's special day or something as simple as you saw the first robin of spring. With so much bad news let's look for the good.

Nominations for Consistory

Elder (3 year terms 2024 to 2027)

Tim Rumble
Phil Haines
Bob Ruhe
Gail Correll

Deacon (3 year terms 2024 to 2027)

Tom Wright
Lisa Nguyen
Corey Tancin
Tom Hoffert



Once again, we will be collecting for Alzheimer's Disease Research during the month of March. The official day for collection was Sunday, March 17th. at this time we have raised \$548. Last year

we raised over \$1,000 for this worthy cause and one very near and dear to our hearts here at Bethany Church. We have been supporting this program since 2011 and have raised over \$10,000 which thanks to generous programs have been doubled to over \$20,000. Checks need to be made out to Bethany UCC with Alzheimer's written in the memo. Bethany will send one check to the organization. Thank you in advance for your most generous donations. Any questions can be directed to Sue Wright.

P.S. We will be accepting donations up to and including Sunday April, 7.

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.



PLEASE LOOK AT THESE ITEMS ST. THOMAS UCC

ST. THOMAS UCC SPONSORING BUS TRIPS – Register now for a bus trip to Sight & Sound to see *Daniel* on July 16. The cost is \$150. Registration is also open for a bus trip to Washington, D.C. from Sept. 27-29. The cost is \$630 per person. Please contact Carol at 610.791.5545 or Karen at 610.868.9167.

50PLUS – Join us for a time of fun and fellowship at 10am on Tuesday, April 9, at St. Thomas UCC, 902 East Macada Rd., Bethlehem. We will be doing Canvas Painting. Bring a snack to share. To register, call the church office at 610.868.9167.



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, MARCH 24 Palm Sunday

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer. Join us as we begin Holy Week with the blessings of the Palms.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

1:00PM 5:00PM Office Hours
5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
6:30PM Brass Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 Maundy Thursday

7PM Maundy Thursday service with Communion

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 Good Friday

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours
7PM Good Friday service

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 Easter Sunday

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer. Join us as we celebrate our Risen Savior!

The Consistory of Bethany UCC Bethlehem declares that this year's Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on April 7, 2024 in the sanctuary.

Worship on that Sunday will begin at 10:00 AM

The Annual Meeting will immediately follow the conclusion of worship.