

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*January 21, 2018  
Third Sunday after Epiphany*



## ***First time guests, welcome!***

*We are so glad that you are worshiping with us this morning. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex and identify yourself to one of our ushers or Welcome Team members to receive a delicious gift.*

*We invite everyone to write their prayer requests on the Action Pads in the pews. They will be gathered and read aloud during our Prayers of the Church. Prayer requests may be edited for privacy concerns.*

*All are invited to stand for sections marked with a cross (✝); however, some may choose to remain seated.*

*Congregational responses are in **bold**.*

### **FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar are in honor of **Wil Leonard**'s 91<sup>st</sup> birthday today, from Jan and his family.

The flowers on the stand are for **Arianne**. Thank you for your time here at Bethlehem and for all the beautiful music.

### **CHURCH LIFE**

We have two birthdays today!  
Best wishes to **Charlotte Sell**, who is 94,  
and **Wil Leonard**, who is 91.

No member of Bethlehem is known to be in the hospital.

### **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

8:30 = 16    10:00 = 83

### **Our Mission**

To worship God, to learn and live the Word of God, to engage in Christian fellowship and service, to invite others to join us on our faith journey in the ministry of Jesus Christ.



a just world for all

**Order of Worship**  
**January 21, 2018**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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Chapel	8:30 a.m.
Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.

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RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

8:30

Suite in A

G.F. Handel

10:00

He Shall Feed His Flock

G.F. Handel

*Gary Maki, trumpet*

WELCOME AND SHARING PARISH LIFE

✠ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to respond to the call of God's love,

**All: thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.**

One: May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

**All: Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.**

One: Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

**All: May our gathering invite and welcome people near and far to know the love of this divine presence.**

✠ HYMN OF GATHERING #352                      Spirit Song

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: From deep within us we know of a loving presence. All around us we see glory, beauty, life, and light. We have no words for what we experience so we cry out, "God!" In this moment of worship may that loving presence grow deeper, may our awareness of the divine presence around us grow more intense. May we, gathered in this place, learn to pay more attention to God, who loves us at all times and in all places.

**All: God of love and life, in this moment of prayer be more and more in us that we might live more and more in you. Amen.**

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and in this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience. Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others—some people who are like us, some who are not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. Amen.**

*(let us observe a few moments of silence to breathe and reflect)*

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are forgiven, and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. **Amen.**

## THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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 debts [sins],  
as we forgive our debtors [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. Amen.**

## ✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Children of God, the Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Please share Christ's peace with one another.

## ✠ SONG OF PRAISE #35

Gloria Patri

**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.**

## 10:00 LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN

*Following the message, children may go to Sunday school.*

*Hallelujah! You know my words, before they're said, you know my need, and I am fed,  
you give me life, you know my ways, my strength, my path for all my days.*

*If I should fly beyond the dawn the darkness will not overcome.*

*If I lie down in deepest night still you are there, my Lord, my light. Our every thought,  
each word we say, the whole of time, the present day are held within your mighty hand,  
too wonderful to comprehend! Oh mend my heart and free my voice, from sin released*

*I will rejoice. Oh, search me, Lord my spirit cries, and let my song of praise arise!*

*Hallelujah!*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Jonah 3:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>“Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.” <sup>3</sup>This time Jonah obeyed the Lord’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. <sup>4</sup>On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” <sup>5</sup>The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow. <sup>6</sup>When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. <sup>7</sup>Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: “No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. <sup>8</sup>People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. <sup>9</sup>Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.” <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

### **Luke 11:27-36**

<sup>27</sup>As he was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, “God bless your mother—the womb from which you came, and the breasts that nursed you!” <sup>28</sup>Jesus replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.” <sup>29</sup>As the crowd pressed in on Jesus, he said, “This evil generation keeps asking me to show them a miraculous sign. But the only sign I will give them is the sign of Jonah. <sup>30</sup>What happened to him was a sign to the people of Nineveh that God had sent him. What happens to the Son of Man will be a sign to these people that he was sent by God. <sup>31</sup>The queen of Sheba will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for she came from a distant land to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Now someone greater than Solomon is here—but you refuse to listen. <sup>32</sup>The people of Nineveh will also stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent. <sup>33</sup>No one lights a lamp and then hides

it or puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house. <sup>34</sup>Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness. <sup>35</sup>Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. <sup>36</sup>If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light.”

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Reluctant Prophets”

Pastor John

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Calvin Taylor

*The offering and prayer requests will be collected during the hymn.*

10:00

The Gift of Love  
*Val Jaskiewicz, violin*

Mark Hayes

*The Member Care Team will collect written prayer requests at this time.*

*Though I speak with tongues of angels, though my voice is touched with gold, without love each word is discord, clanging brass and cymbals bold. Though I know as much as prophets, though my faith is strong and sure, without love these are as nothing, neither words nor work endure. Though I give my goods to others, and my flesh I give to burn, without love each gift is worthless, till the gift of love I learn. Love is always kind and patient, neither jealous, boastful, rude; neither selfish nor conceited, but with ev'ry grace imbued. Love releases all resentment, takes no pleasure in the wrong; love finds truth delightful always and endures what comes along. Though not easily offended, love is eager to forgive, always trusting, always hoping, precious love will always live! In a world that is imperfect, many gifts will pass away; faith and hope and love are endless; these, and these alone will stay. To a world where all is changing comes this promise from above: Faith and Hope will last forever, but the greatest gift is love.*

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

Gestures of gratitude are a demonstration that a blessing or benefit has been received. We heard a call, dropped our “nets,” and came to this place to find new life. The gifts we give today are but tokens of the blessings of the new life we live in Christ. Bring your gifts with joy, for they remind us of just how blessed we are to know this love that flows so generously from the spirit of God.

10:00 OFFERTORY

For everyone Born

Tom Trenney

*For everyone born a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion  
and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy.  
For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, a system that's fair. For young and for old,  
a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song. The hands of a child  
in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.  
For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work,  
to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.*

✠ 10:00 DOXOLOGY #46

**Praise God the source of life and breath; Praise Christ, now born to conquer death;  
Praise Holy Spirit's mystery: One God, pure grace, who sets us free. Amen.**

✠ 10:00 UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**May these gifts, given to these ministries of grace, be a blessing to friends and  
strangers, those like us and those not, those deserving and those not, for in  
this way the love of God reaches all, including us.**

✠ HYMN OF PARTING #339      Just as I Am, without One Plea

✠ BENEDICTION

**One:** May God be with us all as we depart this blessed place. May we be a  
blessing to every place we go, until we gather again.

**All:** **God has always loved me. God loves me now, just as I am. God will  
always love me with no take-backs!**

✠ POSTLUDE

8:30                                      When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Albert Travis

10:00                                      All My Days

Mark Miller

***Please join us for the Coffee Connection in the Schmale Lounge after the 8:30 service***



***This morning, following the 10:00 service,  
please join us for a special reception in the Fellowship Hall  
as we say goodbye and thank you to  
our Director of Music, Arianne Abela, husband Noah, and baby Hazel.***

## **HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY**

**Pastor:** Rev. John L. Kennedy

**Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development:** Lily Tinker Fortel

**Director of Music:** Arianne Abela

**Organist:** Gail Jennings

**10:00 Bell Ringer** Matt Perros

**Liturgist** Cresson Slotten

### **Coffee Hour Servers**

**8:30** Harriette Ehnis, Mike Ehnis

**10:00** Jenny Foster, Jane Zieseemer, Tom Zieseemer

**Dishwasher** Sue Muir, Roy Muir

**Office Volunteer** Jacquie Katz

**10:00 Sound Technician** Kurt Schmerberg

**10:00 Educational Building Greeters** Laura Seyfried, Pat O'Reilly

**Building Opener/Closer** Bob Loukotka, Scott Lovelace

**8:30 Ushers** Harriette Ehnis, Mike Ehnis

**10:00 Ushers** Larry Katz, Hans Maier, Tom Naylor,  
Marty Seyfried, Jay Katz, Mark Katz

***WORSHIP RESOURCES: Reluctant Evangelists: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany*** was written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, California, and a member of the board of directors of ProgressiveChristianity.org. Copyright 2018 Faith Formation Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.