

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*

For the bread of God is
He who comes down
out of heaven and
gives life to the world.

John 6:33

*August 1, 2021
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*



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.

First time guests, welcome!

*We are so glad 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.*

*We invite everyone to write their prayer requests and/or
praise reports on the cards in the pews. They will be collected during the
Hymn of Gathering and read aloud during our Prayers of the People.
These may be edited for privacy concerns.*

*A comfortable space for families is available under the balcony.
All are invited to stand for sections marked with a cross (✝);
however, some may choose to remain seated.
Congregational responses are in **bold**.*



CHURCH LIFE

Bethlehem member, **Mary Ann Folk**, is in rehab.
Please keep her in your prayers.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

7/25/2021: 52

Order of Worship
August 1, 2021
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Matt Perros

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 553
Marsha Rinke, Organ

J. S. Bach

WELCOME & SHARING PARISH LIFE

Pastor Marcia

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim & Katie Rowan

One: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways.
This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel
to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

Many: God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.

One: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you.
As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures—
faith, hope, and love.

Many: God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.

One: All life is created and nourished by you!
May we grow into new circles of understanding and being,
reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

Many: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

✠ HYMN OF GATHERING # 709

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode;

on the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove;
who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near;
thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which he gives them when they pray.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Jim & Katie Rowan

Life Sustainer, we receive the things you desire to offer us
today and each new day!
Grant us wisdom and openness to your Word
and use its teachings to energize our bodies and spirits.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jim & Katie Rowan

God, we confess that we often spoon-feed ourselves items and ideas
that do not provide us the energy we need to do your work.
This creates space between you and us,
between ourselves and each other, as members of Christ's one body.
Oftentimes, we are willing to risk our sustained health and well-being
for immediate satisfaction.

(Please take a moment to breathe and reflect)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jim & Katie Rowan

Through Jesus, we have been given an example of one who was truly nourished
and sustained by God. In Christ, we are forgiven, made whole, and restored to
the one body. Let us outwardly profess our Christian unity by offering each other
a sign of peace.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Jim & Katie Rowan

Please say in the way most familiar to you.

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/trespases],
as we forgive our debtors [those who sin/trespass 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Summerland

William Grant Still

Josh Marzan, Pianist

SCRIPTURE READING

Jim & Katie Rowan

Ephesians 4: 1-16

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." ⁹ (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole

body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

John 6: 24-35

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

SERMON

The Unity of Bread

Pastor Marcia

✠ **HYMN OF RESPONSE # 420**

I Come With Joy

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us
share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world,
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Marcia

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Marcia

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And Also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord most high.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God All are welcome here. This is not our table, but Christ's, for we believe that Christ is the host, Christ sets the table and Christ welcomes all.

OPENING COMMUNION PRAYER

All: In the company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving meal.

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

Pastor Marcia

O God, our Mother and Father, bread baker and vineyard keeper, we give you thanks and praise. You worked the world into being, instilled all creation with life, and shaped us as your people.

O present Spirit, help us recognize the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. Feed the world with this bread. Bring it joy with this fruit of the vine. Give it leaven and salt in us, a community of faith strengthened by your meal.

It is a right and good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give you praise, all-loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth. Therefore, we celebrate you, joining our voices with the wind and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing the unending hymn to proclaim the glory of your Holy Name saying:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy God of Love and Majesty. The whole universe worships your name.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor Marcia

We remember on the night before Jesus was killed by those who feared him, he sat at table with his friends, women, men and children, sharing in the feast of the Passover, the celebration of the liberation of God's people.

And remembering God's power, Jesus took bread, and after he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it saying, "This is my work and my life, this is my body broken for you. Take it all of you, and eat this remembering me."

After dinner Jesus took the cup, pouring the fruit of the vine. He passed it to them as we share it today saying, "This is the cup of my blood, the cup of the new covenant. It is the cup of justice and peace poured out for all. Drink of it, all of you, and do this remembering me."

Each time we break bread together, we participate in the body of the Risen Christ. And each time we share this cup, we participate in the New Community, for we are God's hope for the New Community.

Come Holy Spirit, come. Bless this meal and bless us, filling us with your live-giving, abiding love.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE WINE

Pastor Marcia

In one hand, we embrace a piece of one common loaf.
Sharing one cup, we drink of the Christ's new covenant of unity.
With one voice, we lift up our prayers
to you, the one great God, who embraces our differences
yet rejoices in our unity in this one communion act. Amen.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Pastor Marcia

This is the Body of Christ, broken for you. The Bread of Life. Take and eat.
This is the Blood of Christ, shed for you. The Cup of Love. Take and drink.

CLOSING COMMUNION PRAYER

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Marcia

✠ HYMN OF SENDING # 442

We Are Walking

We are walking in the light of God
We are walking in the light of God

We are walking in the light of God
We are walking in the light of God

We are walking, walking
We are walking, walking
We are walking in the light of God

✠ BENEDICTION

Pastor Marcia

✠ POSTLUDE

Rondo in G
Marsha Rinke, Organ

attributed to John Bull
arr. Richard Ellsasser



HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Marcia Maebon

Director of Music: David Hahn

Organ: Marsha Rinke

Piano: Josh Marzan

Bell Ringer: Matt Perros

Sound Technician: Edgar Vasquez

Liturgists: Jim Rowan, Katie Rowan