

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*October 17, 2021
Twenty-first 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.*

*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, **Hilda Ward**, is in the hospital.
Please keep her in your prayers for a swift recovery.

RADIO BROADCAST

In memory of **Frederick & Lela Keppler**
from their children

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

10/10/2021: 58

Order of Worship
October 17, 2021
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Matt Perros

PRELUDE

Adagio Cantabile (Pathetique Sonata)
Gail Jennings, Piano

L. V. Beethoven

WELCOME & SHARING CHURCH LIFE

Pastor John

✠ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God whispers to each of us:
you are my beloved, created in love for love.

**ALL: My spirit answers,
Here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.**

ONE: God breathes on us the Holy Spirit,
knitting many members into one body,
the body of Christ.

**ALL: Together we answer,
Here we are Lord. Come, Holy Spirit.**

ONE: God has yet more vision for the people.
Who will work for God to extend God's
kingdom into our hurting world?

ALL: Here we are Lord. Empower us for your work.

ONE: God calls the small,
and helps them do great things.
God calls the weak,
and reveals their hidden gifts.
God calls the rejected,
and opens their eyes to their worth.

ALL: Here we are Lord, humble and waiting.

ONE: Then let us gather, old and young,
small and great, to dream God's dreams,
receive God's power, and do God's deeds.

**ALL: Here we are Lord.
Shine the light of your love on us.
Kindle your Spirit within us.
Work your redeeming will in us,
that all the world may be one
through the power of your love. AMEN.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Lord Speak To Me That I May Speak

1) Lord, speak to me that I may speak
In living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek
Your erring children, lost and lone.

2) Oh, lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wand'ring and the wav'ring feet.
Oh, feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Your hungry ones with manna sweet.

3) Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may
reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

4) Oh, use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as you will, and when, and where
Until your blessed face I see,
Your rest, your joy, your glory share.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Something made the hairs stand up on our necks.

Was it you, O God?
Was it you that we felt
in the beating of our own hearts?
Was it you that called our names?
Come, O God. Come to search us.
Come to know us again. Come, O God,
so that we can hear you calling our names.
Here and now. **AMEN.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace,
in the days when Your word was rarely heard
and when visions were scarce,
You broke into Samuel's life
and called his name...and he said
"Here I am, speak, for your servant is listening."**

**We confess,
that often so many voices clamor for our attention that your word is again hard
to hear.**

**Forgive us,
if you have called us to be prophetic witnesses
or to use our gifts to serve you,
and we have not heard,
or have been unwilling to respond.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
We confess that we do not expect to meet You
on the familiar roads, we travel
and so we fail to discern your presence
or Your call on our lives.**

**Holy Spirit, You empower us to recognize
and to respond to the invitation of Jesus
to follow him, even when that means
traveling on unknown and unfamiliar paths...**

**Merciful God,
take from us all that hinders our hearing Your voice and fill us anew with the
Holy Spirit that we may joyfully respond to Jesus' call on our lives.
In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.**

(followed by a few moments of silence to breathe and reflect)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND GRACE

The good news is that even if we at first
do not hear the divine word addressed to us,
God calls again and again!

When our words and actions separate us from God, the Apostle Paul, assures us

"that nothing in all creation can separate us
from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **AMEN**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.****

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

† SONG OF PEACE #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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Thou Knowest Lord

Henry Purcell

SCRIPTURE READING

1st Samuel 3: 3-21

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

Then the LORD called,

"Samuel! Samuel!" and Samuel said, "Here I am!"
and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; lie down again."

So Samuel went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!"

Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said,
"Here I am, for you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

The LORD called Samuel again, a third time.

And he got up and went to Eli, and said,
"Here I am, for you called me."

Then Eli, perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel,

"Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Then the LORD said to Samuel,

"See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore, I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.

But Eli called Samuel and said,
"Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am."

Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."

So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then Eli said,

“It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

SERMON A Still Listening People...A Still Speaking God Pastor John

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 621 Are Ye Able Said The Master

"Are ye able," said the Master, "To be crucified with me?"
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered, "To the death we follow Thee."

Refrain:

Lord, we are able. our spirits are Thine.
Remold them, make us, like Thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
A beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.

Are ye able to remember, when a thief lifts up his eyes,
That his pardoned soul is worthy of a place in paradise? [Refrain]

Are ye able when the shadows close around you with the sod,
To believe that spirit triumphs, to commend your soul to God? [Refrain]

"Are ye able?" Still the Master whispers down eternity,
And heroic spirits answer now, as then, in Galilee. [Refrain]

✠ **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Pastor John

**On my own
what I have to give
doesn't amount to much
in the light of all, you have given to me
and in the face of so much need.**

**Put together as a congregation,
what we offer you here in love
becomes more,
not simply added together,**

**but somehow multiplied in its usefulness.
We ask you to bless our gifts
and with the addition of your blessing,
just as it was with the loaves and fishes,
there is enough for all. AMEN**

BETHLEHEM BELL CHOIR

Give Thanks

Henry Smith/ arr. Susan Geschke

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor John

HYMN OF SENDING # 452 Here I Am Lord

1) I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my peo-ple cry.
All who dwell in dark-ness now
My hand will save.
I who make the stars of night,
I will make their dark-ness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

[Refrain]
Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you call-ing in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

2) I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn a-way.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love a-lone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

3) I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide,
Till their hearts be sat-is-fied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

✠ BENEDICTION

Pastor John

Go now. Listen for the voice of the Lord
and follow wherever it leads.
Do not be dominated by anything.
Allow no room within yourselves for deceit,
but offer yourselves as a temple for the Holy Spirit.
And may God be with you and speak through you;

May Christ Jesus be one with you and raise you to life;
And may the Holy Spirit dwell within you and make you holy.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE**

Presto Toccata
Gail Jennings, Organ

Paradisi (1707-1791)

Worship Resources: Call to Worship written by David Inglis. Posted on the Henrietta United Church of Christ website: <http://www.henriettaucc.org/PastorsPage/CallsToWorship.shtml>

Assurance of God's Forgiveness and Grace — written by Moira Laidlaw, on Liturgies Online.

Benediction: © 2002 Nathan Nettleton <http://www.laughingbird.net/>



HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY

Pastor: Rev. John Kennedy

Director of Music: David Hahn

Organ / Piano: Gail Jennings

Hand Bell Choir: Jim Rowan, Director

Bell Ringer: Matt Perros

Sound Technician: Edgar Vasquez

Liturgists: TBD

Additional Speakers: Ron Dechert