

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*January 23, 2022  
Third Sunday after Epiphany*



## **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**.  
Singing is encouraged, with masks on, during hymns.*



## **CHURCH LIFE**

No Bethlehem members were known  
to be in the hospital as of Wednesday.

## **RADIO SPONSORSHIP**

Today's radio broadcast is in memory of  
**Gary Hentz** from his wife, Pat Hentz (rescheduled from last week)

## **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

1/16/2022: 41

**10:00 am Worship is available via  
Live Stream (access from the church website: [www.bethlehem.org](http://www.bethlehem.org))  
and Radio Broadcast on WAAM 1600 am**

**Order of Worship**  
**January 23, 2022**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE**                      Peace for Violin and Piano                      Jesse Montgomery  
*Andrew Jennings, violin, Gail Jennings, piano*

**WELCOME & SHARING PARISH LIFE**                      Pastor John

**† CALL TO WORSHIP - RESPONSIVE**

**ONE:** We each have many gifts to offer in service to God.

**ALL:** **Some will be teachers; others preachers; some will be capable leaders, others will be skillful workers; some will be those who have visions of all possibilities; others will find ways to make those visions a reality; some will develop ministries of peace and justice; others will seek to change unjust systems.**

**ONE:** Each person here has been blessed by God.

**ALL:** **Lord, help us to use those blessings to help others. AMEN.**

**† HYMN OF PRAISE # 4**                      Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

- 1) Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:**  
**holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,**  
**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**
  
- 2) Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee;**  
**casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;**  
**cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,**  
**God ever-living, through eternity.**

**3) Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,  
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see;  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**4) Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

#### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION – UNISON**

**O wondrous God,  
on this holy day,  
we have gathered together once again  
to celebrate your presence among us,  
to praise you, and to thank you  
for all you have given us.  
May this time of worship  
strengthen and refresh us,  
and fill us with such joy  
that we cannot help but share it  
with everyone around us.  
Though we are very different people,  
with many different talents and gifts,  
make us one in your Spirit,  
that we may be your ministers  
in the world. AMEN.**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION – UNISON**

**Waiting God, you know us all too well.  
We listen to this episode in the life of Jesus.  
We hear the astonishment of the people gathered  
in worship as Jesus proclaims  
the mandate and scope of his ministry.  
It is what they had hoped for  
and also what they have feared.**

**Change and challenge are always difficult.  
We are more inclined to turn our backs on  
opportunities of service than pitch in  
to affect the needed changes  
that will promote healing and wholeness.  
Forgive us when we give lip service to you  
and then slip into inaction.  
Give us courage to be willing disciples.  
Help us to be people of promise and hope.  
In Jesus' Name, we offer this prayer. AMEN.**

### **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND GRACE**

Jesus has opened the doors  
for service to each one of us.  
We have been freed from our fears and doubts.  
Rejoice, dear friends!  
In Jesus' Name, we are forgiven and healed. **AMEN.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER - UNISON**

*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**

**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**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**          Gospel of Luke 4:14-30

The Beginning of Jesus' Galilean Ministry and his Rejection at Nazareth's.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach at their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then Jesus began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

All spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph's son?”

Jesus, said to them,

“Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.

But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl Jesus off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

## **SERMON**

The Paradox of the Good News

Pastor John

You are invited to write, doodle, and/or draw on your sheets of paper during the sermon. These pages can be made into “scrolls” for you to reflect on during the week.

Sample Questions:

Where in the world do I see:

Good news for the poor?

People being able to see better than they could before?

People being “set free”?

What can I do to help those who are suffering or who need help?

What color is “good news”?

How can I bring joy to those who are sad?

**HYMN OF RESPONSE # 33    How Great Thou Art**

**1) Oh Lord, my God**

**When I, in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

**Refrain:**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**2) And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin. [Refrain]**

**3) When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor John

**INVITATION TO GIVE**

We share from what we have and from who we are  
as a sign of our desire to bring good news to the poor.  
May these gifts bring light to those in need,  
and put the joy of the Lord in their hearts.



**OFFERTORY MUSIC**      Dona Nobis Pacem    Traditional Latin/arr. McChesney  
Bethlehem Hand bell Quartet

**DOXOLOGY # 46**      Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.**

**† PRAYER OF DEDICATION – UNISON**

**O God of all gifts,  
we join with Jesus in proclaiming the year of your favor.  
Bless our gifts and bless us  
as we seek to bring joy and comfort  
to those who are unknown to us,  
and to those who are near and beloved. AMEN.**

**† HYMN OF SENDING # 552** Standing on the Promises

**1) Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.**

**[Refrain:]**

**Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**2) Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

**3) Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

**4) Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
list'ning every moment to the Spirit's call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

**† BENEDICTION**

Pastor John

ONE: The Spirit of God is upon you.

**ALL: We go forth proclaiming God's love and liberation.**

ONE: The Spirit of Christ is upon you.

**ALL: We go forth to live lives of justice and freedom.**

ONE: The power of the Spirit is upon you.

**ALL: We go forth as one body, one spirit,  
one witness to the promises of our God.**

**† POSTLUDE**

The Mysterious Barricades  
*Gail Jennings, Piano*

Francois Couperin



## **HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY**

**Pastor:** Rev. John Kennedy

**Director of Music:** David Hahn

**Piano / Organ:** Gail Jennings

**Violin:** Andrew Jennings

**Hand bells:** Bethlehem Hand bell Quartet

**Bell Ringer:**

**Sound Technician:** Kurt Schmerberg

**Liturgists:**