

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*May 29, 2022  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Memorial Day*



## 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

Pastor John is now recovering after surgery.  
Please keep him in your prayers.

BUCC member, Mark Schlanderer, passed away on Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Please keep Karen and his family in your prayers.

### IN PERSON ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

5/22/2022: 50

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**  
**May 29, 2022**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**Memorial Day**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE**                      *Adagio by Samuel Barber /Arr. Strickland*  
Gail Jennings, Organ

**WELCOME & SHARING PARISH LIFE**

**† CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE**

One: We have been invited to know God

**Many: Let us enter the knowledge of God**

One: We have been invited to bear God's justice

**Many: Let us enter the justice of God**

One: We have been invited to enter God's truth

**Many: Let us enter the truth of God**

One: We have been invited to enter God's unity

**Many: Let us enter the unity of God**

**† HYMN OF PRAISE**                      **#720 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Gracious God, on this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength

and peace. In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe. We ask this through your name. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION - UNISON**

**Creating God,  
In selfishness and insecurity,  
We have traded your healing for our hatred,  
Your calling for our comfort,  
Your truth for our traditions,  
Your covenant for our conventions,  
Your faithfulness for our fragmentation,  
Your care and our convenience,  
Your solidarity for our self-righteousness,  
Your promise for our praise.**

**Forgive us, we pray.  
Speak to us again of your love,  
That we may know you,  
And by knowing you,  
We may once again be made whole.  
Amen.**

*Silent Prayers may be offered*

*(let us observe 30 seconds of silence to breathe and reflect)*

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

One: Beloved of God, hear the good news.  
God's love never fails us.  
Even in our division and despair,  
God desires to be made known.

**ALL: We are forgiven. We are welcome. We are one. 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/trespasses],  
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

ONE: From the creation of the world, God has freely given.  
We give, not as solitary givers, but in solidarity with all creation.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## † 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.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## MEDITATION and MUSIC

## Selections from scripture

*Psalm 82:3-4 (NIV)*

- 3 Defend the weak and the fatherless;  
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

*Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)*

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

*Psalms 34:14-19 (NLT)*

14 Turn away from evil and do good.

Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

15 The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right;  
his ears are open to their cries for help.

16 But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil;  
he will erase their memory from the earth.

17 The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help.  
He rescues them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;  
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

19 The righteous person faces many troubles,  
but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

*Psalms 27:1-5 (NRSV)*

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

4 One thing I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,

and to inquire in his temple.  
5 For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

*John 11:25-26 (NRSV)*

25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,  
26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

*Psalms 23 (The Message)*

1-3 God, my shepherd!  
I don't need a thing.  
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.  
True to your word,  
you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.  
4 Even when the way goes through  
Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid  
when you walk at my side.  
Your trusty shepherd's crook  
makes me feel secure.  
5 You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.  
You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.  
6 Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.  
I'm back home in the house of God  
for the rest of my life.

## Spoken Word

**#721**                      **My Country 'Tis of Thee**

**Video: Memorial Day Bagpipes Tribute: Amazing Grace (Bagpipes)**

**#85**                      **Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **INVITATION TO GIVE**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**    *Gabriel's Obo by Morricone*  
Gary Maki, Trumpet  
Gail Jennings, Organ

**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**

May the joy of our Healer go with us. May we go out in the unity of God. That we may know God and make God known. Go forth in the love of God. Amen.

† **HYMN OF SENDING #677 Let There Be Peace on Earth**

† **BENEDICTION - 1 Corinthians 16:13**

Remember to stay alert and hold firmly to all that you believe. Be mighty and full of courage. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE**                *Variations on "America" #1 & 4 by Charles Ives*  
Gail Jennings, Organ





## **HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY**

**Pastor:** Rev. John Kennedy  
**Director of Music:** Dr. David Hahn  
**Piano / Organ:** Gail Jennings  
**Additional Musician:** Gary Maki  
**Sound Technician:** Edgar Vasquez  
**Video Director:** Dan Blakeney  
**Moderator:** Jennifer Vasquez