

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*June 26, 2022
Third 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

IN PERSON ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

6/19/2022 - 47

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

Order of Worship
June 26, 2022
Third Sunday after Pentecost

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Mozart Sonata in A*
Dr. Bradley Smith, Piano

WELCOME & SHARING PARISH LIFE

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE** Pastor John

ONE: Welcome to worship today.
Bring your joys and burdens to the Lord.

**ALL: For God hears the cries of our hearts
and heals our wounded souls.**

ONE: Remember the wondrous deeds that God
continues to perform in your life.

**ALL: Let us be thankful for all the mercies
and tenderness that God offers to us.**

ONE: Come, praise the Lord with all your heart
and soul.

**ALL: Let our voices raise in a powerful concert
of praise and thanksgiving. AMEN.**

✠ **HYMN OF GATHERING: "Eternal God Whose Power Upholds (Forest Green)"**

**1 Eternal God, whose power upholds
Both flower and flaming star,
To whom there is no here nor there,
No time, no near nor far,**

No alien race, no foreign shore,
No child unsought, unknown:
O send us forth, Thy prophets true,
To make all lands Thine own!

- 2 O God of love, whose Spirit wakes
In every human breast,
Whom love, and love alone, can know,
In whom all hearts find rest:
Help us to spread Thy gracious reign
Till greed and hate shall cease,
And kindness dwell in human hearts,
And all the earth find peace!
- 3 O God of truth, whom science seeks
And reverent souls adore,
Who lightest every earnest mind
Of every clime and shore:
Dispel the gloom of error's night,
Of ignorance and fear,
Until true wisdom from above
Shall make life's pathway clear!
- 4 O God of beauty, oft revealed
In dreams of human art,
In speech that flows to melody,
In holiness of heart:
Teach us to turn from sinfulness
That shuts our hearts to Thee,
Till all shall know the loveliness
Of lives made fair and free!
- 5 O God of righteousness and grace,
Seen in the Christ, Thy Son,
Whose life and death reveal Thy face,
By whom Thy will was done:
Inspire Thy heralds of good news

**To live Thy life divine,
Till Christ has formed in all humankind
And every land is Thine!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Pastor John

Holy One,
we come before you today:
full of hope,
full of desire,
full of promise.
Help us take up the mantle of faith
you have laid before us,
that we may use our own gifts of the Spirit
to face the challenges before us.
Help us face the turmoil
within and around us,
that we may face the future unafraid.
Show us your way, your truth,
and your life. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - UNISON

**Gracious Lord,
you have blessed us with freedom—
freedom to follow or to turn away;
freedom to love or to hate;
freedom to heal or to hurt.
You ask only that we follow your ways,
loving our neighbors as ourselves.
In the midst of our turbulent lives,
help us find teachers
to show us the gifts you set within us.
And help us claim these gifts today. Amen.**

Silent Prayers may be offered

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

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND GRACE

Pastor John

Although following Jesus is difficult,
you can be assured that God is always with you,
bringing you encouragement, strength, and peace.
Know that you are loved and forgiven.
Trust that you are treasured, now and always. Amen.
Rise up and follow the one who offers his life for you. 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

Pastor John

Disciples have said to their teachers,
"I will follow you wherever you go."
May the peace of Christ follow you wherever you go:
at home, at work, and in the world.
Let us turn to one another and offer signs of
Christ's peace in our lives.

† 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

Juliette Friedman

SCRIPTURE READING – 2 Kings 2:2-14

Pastor John

2 Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. 3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

4 Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. 5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

6 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. 7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” 10 He responded, “You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

13 He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?”

Where is he?" He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

SERMON "Make Ours a Double"

Pastor John

RESPONSE IN SONG "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

- 1 Take up your cross, the Savior said,
If you would my disciple be;
Deny yourself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after me.
- 2 Take up your cross, be not ashamed!
Let not disgrace your spirit fill!
For God himself endured to die
Upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.
- 3 Take up your cross, which gives you strength,
Which makes your trembling spirit brave:
'Twill guide you to a better home
And lead to vict'ry o'er the grave.
- 4 Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only they who bear the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor John

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

**Receive our humble offerings, O Lord,
for your work in the world.
Bless those who give,
those who send,
and those who will receive these gifts.
May our offering sow seeds of hope
and bear the fruit of love
wherever they are sown.**

† HYMN OF SENDING – I Have Decided to Follow Jesus - #344

† BENEDICTION

Pastor John

You have been healed and restored in Christ Jesus.
May the transforming love of God
work in your lives, today and always.
Go forth into the world with peace, love, and joy.
Follow Christ wherever he leads you.
Fulfill the promise found in the fruit of the Spirit. Amen

† POSTLUDE

*Fanfare by J.N. Lemmons
Dr. Bradley Smith, Organ*



HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY

Pastor: Rev. John Kennedy
Director of Music: Dr. David Hahn
Piano / Organ: Dr. Bradley Smith
Sound Technician: Gary Rogers
Video Director: Dan Blakeney
Liturgists: Steve Bowers