

Welcome to



*Bethlehem United Church of Christ
August 14, 2022
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.*

*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, **Roger Hoxie**, is in the hospital.
Please pray for a speedy recovery.

BETHLEHEM BIRTHDAY MILESTONES

Arlene Finkbeiner turns 93 TODAY, August 14th and
Helen Nimz turns 96 on August 18th.
Please share birthday blessings with each of these lovely ladies!

IN PERSON ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

8/7/2022 - 33

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

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND GRACE

Pastor John

In the midst of our darkness and ignorance,
the bright light of God's love shines through,
healing our anguished souls.

Rejoice, beloved of God, for God's Love and Forgiveness are given to you this
day. 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

ONE: May the Peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: **And also with you!**

ONE: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace.

† 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

*Lieder Ohne Worte Op 19 No 1 in A Dur "Sweet
Remembrance" By F Mendelsohn
Dr. Bradley Smith, Organ*

Ruth 1: 1-22 Elimelech Moves His Family to Moab

In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Naomi and Ruth Return

Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

"No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people."

But Naomi replied, "Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my

daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me.”

And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. “Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.”

But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!” When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. “Is it really Naomi?” the women asked.

“Don’t call me Naomi,” she responded. “Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?”

So Naomi returned from Moab, accompanied by her daughter-in-law Ruth, the young Moabite woman. They arrived in Bethlehem in late spring, at the beginning of the barley harvest.

SERMON **Famine in the House of Bread** Pastor John

RESPONSE IN SONG **#599 Day by Day**

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Pastor John

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY MUSIC *The Kingsfold Trumpet* by Fedek
Dr. Bradley Smith, 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

Pastor John

† HYMN OF SENDING #431 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

† BENEDICTION

Pastor John

The pathway is open before you this day.
It is a path of peace and hope, brought to others
by God's mighty love and wondrous blessings.
Go in peace, bringing hope to all that you meet.
Go, blessed ones, to serve God all your days. AMEN.

† POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in G by Jon Roberts
Dr. Bradley Smith, Organ



HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY

Pastor: Pastor John Kennedy

Director of Music: Dr. David Hahn

Piano / Organ: Dr. Bradley Smith

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Video Director: Dan Blakeney

Liturgists: