

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent*



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**.*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Virginia Washington,
who turns 100 on March 19.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

3/12/2023: 44

Order of Worship
March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & SHARING PARISH LIFE

Pastor Diane

PRELUDE *Prelude from Cello Suite No. 3 in C major, BWV 1009*
David Caplan, cello

J. S. Bach

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Norma Foster

One: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

All: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

One: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

All: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: We praise God for the grace that has saved us.

✠ HYMN OF GATHERING #293 *Out of Need and Out of Custom*

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Norma Foster

Journey with us, O Holy God, as we continue our way to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than ourselves. Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

LENTEN MOMENT

Pastor Diane for Luise Kienzle

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Diane

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

I've Got Peace Like a River (v. 1 only)

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

John Bell

Bethlehem Chancel Choir; Andrew Jennings, violin;
David Caplan, cello; Gail Jennings, organ

*We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.*

*The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love, which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.*

*So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Diane

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 27:15-23

Norma Foster

Barabbas or Jesus?

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

MESSAGE

A New Kind of Revolutionary: An Interview with Barabbas

Pastor Diane
Conrad Foster

† HYMN OF RESPONSE

#202 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Diane

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.**

INVITATION TO GIVE

Pastor Diane

God has given us so much, his only Son. It is only right that we should give from all we have received. Let us share what we have with those in need.

✠ OFFERTORY MUSIC

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
Bethlehem Hand Bell Choir

Doane, Crosby
arr. Wagner

✠ HYMN OF THANKSGIVING (DOXOLOGY) *Live in Charity* (Sing Twice)

**Live in charity and steadfast love,
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.**

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Pastor Diane

**Compassionate God, we offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor.
Receive the offering of our lives and feed us with your grace, that in the midst of
death all creation might feast on your unending life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

✠ CLOSING HYMN

#80 *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

WORDS OF SENDING (BENEDICTION)

Pastor Diane

Sisters and brothers, let us claim the freedom Christ gives us by his self-giving on the cross. May he enable us to serve together in faith, hope, and love. Go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Choral from Suite Gothique, Op. 25
Gail Jennings, Organ

Léon Boëllmann

(During the postlude you are invited to remain for a time of reflection.)



HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Diane White

Director of Music: Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans

Piano / Organ: Gail Jennings

Choir: Bethlehem Chancel Choir

Hand Bells: Bethlehem Hand Bell Choir

Cello: David Caplan

Violin: Andrew Jennings

Sound Technician: Edgar Vasquez

Video Director: Dan Blakeney

Liturgists: Norma Foster

Lenten Moment: Pastor Diane for Luise Kienzle

Barabbas: Conrad Foster