

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



April 6, 2025

Fifth 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.

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We are so glad that you are joining your voice with ours in worship today! Everyone, please sign our green friendship pads, found at the end of each pew.

If you like, a comfortable space for families is available under the balcony.

God put the wiggle in children, and we welcome them in worship!

Children are also welcome to participate in Sunday school, if they prefer.

All are invited to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with a cross (†);

Congregational responses are in bold text.

Prayer Requests

Fill out a prayer request card found in the pews.

You may give it to one of the pastors before the service or to an usher during the Hymn of Response.



Happy birthday to Bethlehem member, Stephen Barnett who turns 92 on April 10, 2025



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY, 3/2/2025

Total: 70 (In Person: 45, YouTube: 23, Phone: 2)

Worship is available in the sanctuary, via Phone Streaming and Livestream to access the Livestream go to our website: <https://www.bethlehem-ucc.org>. To join the Phone Stream, call 855-669-8965 prior to the start of worship. You may sign up to be called by the Phone Stream by contacting the church office during regular business hours.

(You will be called about 5 minutes before worship begins.)

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND SHARING CHURCH LIFE

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CENTERING MUSIC

Fairest Lord Jesus
Naki Kripfgans, piano

- arr. Chris Rice

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Where are you, God? We are lost in the night, unable to find you.

All: The evil one stalks us and grins at us through the darkness.

One: We try to run, but don't know which way to go. Covered in shadow, we cannot find a hiding place.

All: Help us, O God! Show us the light of your mercy.

One: Our eyes are swollen from tears; our bones – cold with fear; our souls – broken. Hear our cries!

All: According to your steadfast love, answer us and save us. Do not hide your face any longer. Draw near and redeem us!

† HYMN OF GATHERING

NCH # 208 v 1-3

God Loved the World

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of all hope, we gather today so acutely aware of the world's pain and grief. Our world is dark with suffering. Comfort us and lead us through the darkness, with the sure knowledge that our Lenten journey culminates in Easter joy. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

My Lord, What a Morning! - Traditional spiritual/arr. H. T. Burleigh
Bethlehem Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH #327 *Jesus Loves Me v.1*

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The bible tells me so.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Gospel: Mark 12:41-44

One: The Gospel of the Lord, for the people of God!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Power & Might

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH # 565 v 1-3 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Sung Petition

Lord, Listen to Your Children

Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

**Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r,
send us grace.**

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Please use these words or those most familiar to you.

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation to give

Offertory

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

-Lowell Mason/Issac Watts

arr. D. Wagner

Bethlehem Handbell Choir

† Hymn of Thanksgiving NCH # 785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

† Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Compassionate and benevolent God, we offer these humble gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive them and the offering of our lives. Feed us with your grace, so that in the midst of darkness, all of Creation may be blessed by your unwavering love and unfiltered light of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

One: Now, let us prepare our hearts. The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, you long to gather us in the wide embrace of your love, yet we have become lost in the darkness and worldly ways. As we journey closer to the shadow of the cross, we confess that we have denied you by refusing to follow you; we have betrayed you by keeping our distance from you and going our own way; we have mocked you by pretending that we are not your disciples. O Lord, we are lost. Find us; forgive us; draw us back into the wide embrace of your mercy and love and lead us in right paths. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL

NCH# 330

Let Us Break Bread Together

(sung during the meal)

(Note: bread is gluten-free; red cups contain juice; white cups contain wine; please place empty cups in the baskets)

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Gracious God, thank you for refreshing us at your table and filling our hearts with this sacred meal. Thank you for Jesus, who took upon himself the weight of our guilt and sin, and carried them to the grave to be buried forever. As we continue our journey to the cross, may our remembrance of him through this blessed meal strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and give us courage to boldly proclaim your glory, goodness and love to the world. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN

NCH # 212

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

O Lamm Gottes unschuldig (O Lamb of God, Innocent), BWV 656

- J. S. Bach

Naki Kripfgans, organ

OUR TEAM:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dawn Christenson

Associate Pastor: Rev. Diane White

Ministers: All the people

Director of Music & Organist: Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans

Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan

Ensembles: Bethlehem Chancel Choir & Bethlehem Handbell Choir

Liturgist: Please see [Signup Genius](#) for open dates

Sound Technicians: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technicians: Oliver Kripfgans, Michelle Loukotka,

Security Volunteer: Volunteer Needed, contact church office

Coffee Hour Host: Jim and Katie Rowan

Reach out to us:

423 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 665-6149

info@bethlehem-ucc.org

<https://www.bethlehem-ucc.org>



a just world for all