

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter



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.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 89 (In Person: 62, YouTube: 23, Phone: 4)

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

CENTERING MUSIC *For the Beauty of the Earth* - arr. Chris Rice
Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 148)

One: Sing praises to the Lord, all the earth!

**All: Let us praise the Lord always, for God's love and faithfulness
endure forever!**

† **HYMN OF GATHERING** **NCH # 257 v. 1-3** *Alleluia! Gracious Jesus*

† **OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

Wondrous God, you created the heavens and the earth in abundant diversity. Help us to see your Creation through your eyes – where nothing and no one is profane in your sight; for from your love you created all that is, therefore everything and everyone is loved by you. Truly, give us eyes to see your glory, goodness and love in everyone we meet. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* - Goss/arr. Moglebust
Bethlehem Handbell Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Love is Something

Chorus: Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away.
You'll end up having more.

Verse 1: It's just like a magic penny.
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it spend it and you'll have so many,
They'll roll all over the floor.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

NCH # 236

Hallelujah sung twice

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Letters: **Acts 11:1-18**

From the Gospel: **John 13:31-35**

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Imagine...

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION

NCH # 393

Blessed Be the Tie

That Binds

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

Improvisation

- Naki Kripfgans

† **Hymn of Thanksgiving**

NCH # 780 (lyrics #778)

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

† **Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

Loving God, you have given us so much. What can we give in return? If the whole world were ours, it would not be enough. Yet, what little we have we humbly offer to you. May all that we have to offer in time, talent and treasure proclaim your triumphant love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† **CLOSING HYMN**

NCH # 303

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

The God of Abraham Praise

- Michael Burkhardt

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

Ensemble: Bethlehem Handbell Choir

Liturgist: Jan Eadie

Sound Technicians: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technicians: Oliver Kripfgans, Michelle Loukotka,

Security Volunteer: Volunteers Needed, please contact church office

Coffee Hour: Member Care

Reach out to us:

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

(734) 665-6149

info@bethlehem-ucc.org

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

