

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



October 5, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday of 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.

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

FLOWERS

The flowers today are in memory of

Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall and Roland Kearney

from the Larry Marshall Family and Donna Kearney

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 74 (In Person: 48, YouTube: 23, Phone: 3)

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

A Prayer for Peace (excerpt)
Naki Kripfgans, organ

- Francis W. Snow

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 37)

One: Do not fret because of the wicked and wrongdoers,

All: trust in the Lord, and do good, and you will shine like the sun.

† HYMN OF GATHERING NCH # 351 *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Almighty God, pour out upon our tiny mustard seeds of faith streams of living water; nurture our faith to sprout and grow by the warmth of your love; by your Spirit, strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another, to be your beacons of love and hope in the world. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ORDER OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

QUESTIONS

† CONGREGATIONAL PROMISES

Pastor: In this sacrament, we embrace God's eternal love and grace.

People: We are all God's sons and daughters.

Pastor: As we welcome Nicholas to these sacred waters, do you promise to help him live and grow in Christ?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise him your love?

People: We promise our love.

Pastor: Do you promise him your support?

People: We promise our support.

Pastor: Do you promise him your care and prayers?

People: We promise our care and prayers.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER

Pastor: We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother, Father and Brother of all the faithful, for this your beloved child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend Nicholas, the newest member of the body of Christ.

All: Grant him strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ Jesus, our Lord, who makes us one. Amen.

DECLARATION

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

We Are One in the Lord

- Joseph Martin

Bethlehem Chancel Choir; Jack Tallman, percussion

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 BLESSING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL

SPP # 112

***Come to the Table of Grace ***

(sung during the meal)

(note: all bread is gluten-free; red cups contain juice; white cups contain wine; prepackaged elements also available; please place empty cups in the baskets)

[verse order: grace, peace, love, joy]

Come to the table of [grace].

Come to the table of [grace].

This is Christ's table not just yours or mine.

Come to the table of [grace].

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for refreshing us through this sacred meal, shared with our siblings in Christ around the globe. By your Spirit, may it strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, foster unity across borders and barriers, and empower us to make us instruments of peace in our communities and the world. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

NCH # 793

Holy, Holy, Holy

(children & teachers may leave for Sunday school during the song)

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Tiny but mighty

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION *O for a Faith That Will Not Shrink* (tune NCH# 42)

AZMON — C.M.

Music: Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784–1829);
arrangement: Lowell Mason (1792–1872)
words: William Hiley Bathurst (1796–1877)



- 1 O for a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by many a foe;
that will not tremble on the brink of poverty or woe;
- 2 that will not murmur nor complain beneath the chastening rod;
but in the hour of grief or pain can lean upon its God;
- 3 A faith that shines more bright and clear when tempests rage without;
that when in danger knows no fear, in darkness feels no doubt.

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 power,
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 *Come Let Us Eat (A VA DE - Liberian Hymn)* - arr. Tim Fields
Naki Kripfgans, organ

† 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)

**Benevolent God, from your hand we have freely received. Accept
and bless the offerings of your people, as expressions of our gratitude.
By your Spirit, may they enrich the lives of others. Through Christ, our
Lord. Amen.**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN **NCH # 412 v. 1, 2 & 4** ***God Moves in a Mysterious Way***

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *Fanfare* - Jacques Lemmens
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 Chancel Choir

Guest Musician: Jack Tallman

Liturgist: Judy Coucounvanis

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Volunteers needed

Security Volunteer: Volunteers needed, please contact Church Office

Coffee Hour Host: Please see [Signup Genius](#) for open dates

Reach out to us:

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