

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



November 16, 2025

Twenty-Third 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

DEATH

Bethlehem Member, **Evelyn Mullreed**, passed away on November 10, 2025.

Please keep her family in your prayers during this time of grief.

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total:74 (In Person:56, YouTube:15, 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

Waltz Song

- arr. Luis G. Pérez

Jacob Warren, double bass; Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

One: Sing to the Lord a new song,

All: for God has done marvelous things!

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,

All: for God's steadfast love endures forever!

† HYMN OF GATHERING

NCH # 558

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**God, you declared that your kingdom is at hand. Help us to perceive it.
Open our eyes to see it, our ears to hear it, our hearts to hold it, and our
hands to serve it. 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

River in Judea

- Jack Feldman/arr. John Leavitt

Bethlehem Chancel Choir; Jacob Warren, double bass; Jack Tallman, drums

1. Oftentimes I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one everybody knows.
Late at night, I hear it singing, then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on, go on.

2. I believe it keeps on trav'lin', but it rests on the Sabbath day.
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.
When I'm weary and downhearted, how I long for the song it sings,
For the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings, it brings.

(Chorus) There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.
(Hallelujah!)

3. May the time not be too distant
When we meet by the river, meet by the shore.
'Til then dream of that wonderful day
As we sing once more, once more:

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE **NCH # 793** ***Holy, Holy, Holy***
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 Prophets: Isaiah 65:17-25

From the Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

The sign said ...

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH # 108 *Isaiah the Prophet has Written of Old*

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

The Forgotten Waltz
Jacob Warren, double bass

- Jacob Warren

† 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, we offer these humble gifts – signs of your abundant goodness. Receive them with our gratitude and our prayer that through them and us, all people may know the abundance of your great love. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN

NCH # 567

Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

McGlynn's Jigs - Edgar Meyer/trans. Damian Rutti
Jacob Warren, double bass; Naki Kripfgans, piano

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 Musicians: Jacob Warren & Jack Tallman

Liturgist: Jan Eadie

Sound Technician: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Oliver Kripfgans

Security Volunteer: Volunteers needed, please contact church office

Community Time Host: Judy Coucouvanis

Reach out to us:

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

