

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*August 30, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after 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.



Happy Birthday to Bethlehem member, **Barbara Ferris**,
who turns 90 on September 3rd.

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are in honor of the 68th anniversary of
Mike and Harriette Ehnis.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 86 (In Person: 41, YouTube:18, 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

Heritage Sunday Liturgy

One: Today we worship and celebrate God and the 193 years of ministry since the establishment of the church we now know as Bethlehem.

All: Thanks be to God for our witness to this community!

One: We give thanks for the gift of Christ and the Spirit in our lives.

All: We praise God for the people who had the faith and vision to establish this congregation.

One: We give thanks and praise for all the members, past and present, who have given their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to this congregation!

All: We give praise and thanks for all those who have led worship, preached and taught us!

One: We are all disciples who are part of this witnessing body!

All: We are all part of the present and future of Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Amen

CENTERING MUSIC

Graceful Ghost
Gail Jennings, piano

- William Bolcom

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, beloved of God, and let love be genuine among us.

All: We come to honor one another and hold fast to what is good.

One: We rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

All: We bring our joys and sorrows into this shared life.

One: Let us now worship the God whose gospel comes alive between us.

† OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal # 22 All Creatures of Our God and King
(please turn to the next page for the music)

All Creatures of Our God and King 22

Unison

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 2. O rush-ing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n a-
 3. O flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your God to
 4. And all for-giv-en ten-der hearts, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your

Harmony *Unison*

sing; Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en
 long, O praise God, Al-le-lu-ia! O ris-ing morn, in praise re-
 hear, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O blaz-ing fire who lights the
 part, sing prais-es, Al-le-lu-ia! You who long pain and sor-row

Refrain (Harmony)

beam, O sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam,
 joice, you lights of eve-ning find a voice, O praise God,
 night, pro-vid-ing warmth, en-hanc-ing sight,
 bear, praise God, who knows your ev-'ry care.

Unison

O praise God, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!

WORDS: Francis of Assisi, 1225; tr. William H. Draper, 1925, alt.
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 88.44.88 w. refrain

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Communal God, gather us into the life of your love. Teach us to honor one another as we are each your beloved creation. Open our hearts to welcome the stranger, serve those in need, and seek peace wherever it is possible. May the gospel we proclaim become visible in the way we live together. By your Spirit, help us hold fast to what is good and overcome evil with love. In Jesus' name 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

Rondo from Piano Trio in G major, Hob. XV:25 - Joseph Haydn
Katie Rowan, violin; Kathleen Ford, cello; Gail Jennings, piano

Children's Time

Jesus loves me, this I know, as God loved so long ago, taking children on their knee, saying, "Let them come to me." Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! For the Bible tells me so.

SCRIPTURE READING **Romans 12:9-21**

Leader: The Word of God, for the people of God!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE The Gospel Between Us Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH #4 **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**

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 *Land of Rest* - American Hymn Tune/arr. Gail Jennings
(Dedicated to Rebecca Carson Rogers)

Katie Rowan, violin; Kathleen Ford, cello; Gail Jennings, piano

† Hymn of Thanksgiving **NCH # 780** ***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)

Holy One, receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Take what we offer and use it to feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, strengthen this congregation, and extend your grace beyond these walls. Bless both the gifts and the hands that give them, that through our shared generosity your love may take root in the world. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN **NCH# 388** **Help Us Accept Each Other**

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *A Joyful Toccata* - Ernest Brandon
Gail Jennings, organ

OUR TEAM:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

Associate Pastor: Rev. Diane White

Ministers: All the people

Director of Music & Organist: Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans

Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan

Guest Organist: Gail Jennings

Guest Musicians: Katie Rowan & Kathleen Ford

Liturgist: Judy Coucouvanis

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Volunteers needed

Security Volunteer: John Irwin

Community Time Host: Sue Buday

Reach out to us:

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

