

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*November 1, 2026
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Totenfest*



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 members, **Sally Jaworowski**, who
turns 90 on November 1st and, **Margaret Morningstar**, who turns 91
on November 5th



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 74 (In Person: 57, YouTube:15, 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

CENTERING MUSIC *It Is Well with My Soul* - arr. David Schwoebel
Gail Jennings, organ; Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

All: let us set aside every weight and sin that clings so closely;

One: and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

All: Let us run and not grow weary.

One: Those who trust in the Lord shall renew their strength and soar on wings like eagles.

All: Praise God, the Source of all hope, strength and faith!

† OPENING HYMN Chalice #637 v.1-4 *For All the Saints*

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of Grace and Glory, for whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven, we bless you and we adore you. We thank you for all the saints who have testified to your love and shared the gifts that you bestowed upon them. May your Spirit work in and through us, to build us up in faith and love, to serve each other and the world, and to walk in the footsteps of the saints who have gone before and of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

Many: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

The Road Home
Bethlehem Chancel Choir

- arr. Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wandered—oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away;
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me; come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart as the only song.
There is no such beauty as where you belong.
Rise up, follow me; I will lead you home.

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

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

Many: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts!

Many: We lift them to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING 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)

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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, and empower us to be instruments of peace in our communities and the world. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Chalice #111

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.

TOTENFEST LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

One: Hear the voice of God saying, "Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious hand." Blessed are those who die in Christ!

All: "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, with the saints in light."

One: By our baptism, we are buried with Christ.

All: And in Christ's resurrection, we are raised to new life.

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

MUSICAL RESPONSE

#636 v. 1

Abide with Me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepen, God, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-12

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION

#545

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

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

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**

#4320

Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Saints Bound for Heaven

- arr. Lloyd Larson

Bethlehem Chancel Choir

Our bondage it shall end, by and by, by and by.
From Egypt's yoke set free; hail the glorious jubilee,
And to Canaan we'll return, by and by, by and by.

Though our enemies are strong, we'll go on, we'll go on.
Though our hearts are filled with fear, still we know our God is near,
While the fiery pillar moves, we'll go on, we'll go on.

And when to Jordan's streams we have come, we have come.
O Jehovah rules the tide, and the waters He'll divide,
And the ransomed host shall shout, "We are come, we are come!"

Then with all the happy throng, we'll rejoice, we'll rejoice!
Shouting glory to the King till the vaults of heaven ring,
And through all eternity we'll rejoice, we'll rejoice!

I am bound for the promised land, promised land,
O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.
And through all eternity we'll rejoice, we'll rejoice!

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

Ensemble: Bethlehem Chancel Choir

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

Usher: George Pritchett

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Oliver Kripfgans

Community Time Host: Jim and Katie Rowan

Reach out to us:

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