

Bethany United Church of Christ

March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent

As you prepare your heart for worship it might be helpful to read through the call to worship and the prayer of confession and think about them.

Prelude and Bell Ringing
Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship (from Psalm 27)

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Congregation: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

L: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

C: though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

L: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

C: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

L: to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD

C: and to inquire in his temple.

L: You have said, "Seek my face."

C: My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

L: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

C: wait for the LORD!

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn of Praise #458 (SS) "This Is My Father's World"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, forgive us. We often stray from your will because we do not perceive your hand intervening in our lives. We think everything just happens by chance or because someone decided it should happen. But too often we fail to realize: that someone is you. Sometimes we pray and we do not see your answer because we are not paying attention or we don't realize you are at work in some way we do not recognize. These do not seem to be terrible sins, Lord, but they prevent us from drawing closer to you. We miss out on your will, and this is sin for us. Forgive us and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Tune our hearts and minds to your Spirit so that we may perceive how active you are in our lives and be guided more surely by you. Lead us on the path that follows your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*GLORIA PATRI

Invitation to the Children (Jesus Loves the Little Children)
Children's time

Pre-K to Grade 2 children dismiss to church entryway for Sunday School

Scripture

Old Testament lesson – Genesis 15:1-18

New Testament lesson – Luke 13:31-35

Sermon “The Weaver”

*Hymn of Response #17 (SS) “Come Thou Fount”

Prayers of the People
Lord's Prayer

Offering, Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Commitment #254 “God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand”

*Charge and Benediction

Amen! We go forth to serve.

*Choral Response: “God Be with You” #177 (SS) (v. 1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Rev. Darwin Smith

For anyone interested, there will be a short training session on the use of the AED machines tomorrow, Monday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Pastor Joel's brother Keith had successful surgery and is recovering. Joel thanks the congregation for their prayers.

The Maundy Thursday service will be here at Bethany UCC in Tioga at 7 p.m. on April 17. The Good Friday service will be at Bethlehem UCC in Sutter at 7 p.m. on April 18.

Women's Bible Study will continue studying “Prayer” on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Living Water will perform "Hymns of Holy Week, Songs of Easter" at 2 p.m. on Palm Sunday, April 13, at the Nauvoo Theatre. The event features scripture and messages. Those interested in joining the back-up choir should contact Michael Haas at 309-221-1401. See the bulletin strip for more info.

SAVE THE DATES:

- AED Training in Hall: Monday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.
- Confirmation/Palm Sunday: Sunday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday at Bethany: Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m.
- Good Friday at Bethlehem: Friday, April 18, 7 p.m.
- Church moves to 10 a.m.: Sunday, June 1, and weeks after
- Bible School: Friday, June 27
- Retreat House Sunday: Sunday, July 20

Delinda Mulch is greeter today, Shirley Roskamp next week. Thanks to the greeter, Rev. Smith, the musician, AV tech - all who helped with the service.

WELCOME ALL! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and come again.

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