

Worship Service for Bethany U.C.C.  
March 23, 2025

Prelude

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 63 1-4)

L: O God, You are my God, I shall seek You earnestly;

C: **My soul thirsts for You, like in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

L: I have seen You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and glory,

C: **Is better than anything life has to offer.**

All: **I will lift up my hands in Your name. My lips will praise You as long as I live!**

\*HYMN #25 UCC *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Gracious God, we give You thanks for Your faithful love to Your people of every age and time. We especially praise You for sending Jesus to us. May the courage and faithfulness He showed empower us to be strengthened each and every day. Make us bold so we may be unafraid as we seek to do Your work in our world. Unite us in mission with Your universal church to better serve together. Amen.**

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, our worries and fears of the uncertain times in which we are living. Too often we act as if we are on our own, forgetting that You are always with us. Forgive us, we pray. In this season of Lent we especially ask that Your Spirit renew our faith and courage, so that we may faithfully face each challenge in our lives, knowing that You are supreme. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI

INVITATION TO CHILDREN (Jesus Loves the Little Children)

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

HYMN #326 SS *Wonderful Words of Life*

\*OFFERTORY #351 UCC *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Bountiful God, bless now these gifts, our giving, and the fruits of our actions. By Your spirit, help our lives to be worthy of the tasks You place before us. May Your glory and work shine in and through us as we go about our daily lives. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13: 1-9

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

HYMN #388 SS *Take My Life, and Let It Be*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TODAY - Pastor Joel Schlatter

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected next Sunday. Please use the included envelopes.

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:

- 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

Shirley Roskamp is greeter today, Brad Doyle next week. Thanks to the greeter, Pastor Joel, 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.

## Bethany United Church of Christ

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