

## Bethany United Church of Christ

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

*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 148)

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;

**Congregation: praise him in the heights!**

L: Praise him, all his angels;

**C: praise him, all his hosts!**

L: Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

**C: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD!

**C: For he commanded and they were created.**

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**C: Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;

**C: his majesty is above earth and heaven.**

Prayer of Invocation

\*Hymn of Praise #24 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, forgive us. Of all your commandments, the two most important tell us to love you and to love others as ourselves. We fail to obey these commandments on more occasions than we even want to think about. We have opportunities to love others that we don't even notice, because we are not paying attention to the right things. We fail to love because we fail to sense your spirit speaking to us in various circumstances. Forgive our many sins of failure to love, and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to feel your guidance and direction, so that we may love more like Jesus did. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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 – Leviticus 19:9-18

New Testament lesson – John 13:31-35

Sermon “A NEW Commandment? What's Wrong with the Old One?”

\*Hymn of Response #275 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Offering, Offertory

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn of Commitment #186 “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

\*Charge and Benediction

**Amen! We go forth to serve.**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TODAY – Rev. Darwin Smith

- Blanket Sunday special offering (use incl. envelopes)

The start time for Sunday morning services here at Bethany UCC will move to 10 a.m. beginning in two weeks on June 1.

Women's Bible Study continues tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

This year's theme for Bible School is Dare to Be a Daniel with a focus on prayer. If you'd like to help with meals, snacks, lessons, crafts, music, group activities, or anything else, please contact Pastor Joel Schlatter or Tami Roskamp.

SAVE THE DATES:

Church moves to 10 a.m.:

Sunday, June 1, and weeks after

Bible School:

Friday, June 27

Retreat House Sunday:

Sunday, July 20

Ann McArthur is greeter today, Mary Doyle 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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