FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship Service
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Amazing — Brian Platt

Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called to bring a new understanding of God:
that God so loves the world.
We are the salt of the earth.
We are called to bring a new hope in God:
that God gives us new life.
We are the light of the world.
We are called to follow the commandments and the law.
The Law of God is to love God
and to love one another.
Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.
Come, let us love one another with the love of God.
Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

~ written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on **Rev-o-lution**. http://rev-o-lution.org/

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #456

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun — MORNING HYMN

WE CONFESS

*EMBODIED CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (from *Glory to God* – see addendum)

Let Us Build a House – Verse 1 only — TWO OAKS

*Please stand as you are able.

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON — Cynthia Simmons

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE — Robert Gisch

Epistle: Romans 15:13-15
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON — Rev. Karen Kinney

"Salt, Light, and the Abundance of Hope"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

In Jesus' day, salt was primarily used as a preservative to stop decay and as a seasoning to add flavor. How can Christians act as "preservatives" (standing for truth/morals) and "seasoning" (bringing joy and grace) in today's culture? How do our everyday acts bring light and hope into the world?

*SERMON HYMN

Light Dawns in a Weary World (from *Glory to God* – see addendum) — TEMPLE OF PEACE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the *Confession of 1967. 9.26*)

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give
Offertory Forever Reign — Jason Ingram

Contemporary Ensemble

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN

Together We Serve (from *Glory to God* - see addendum) SAN ANSELMO

*BENEDICTION

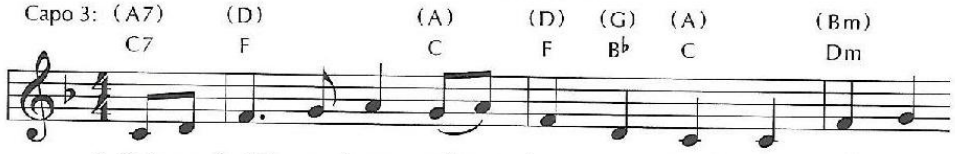
POSTLUDE Postlude on a Theme by Gibbons, Op. 105 Charles V. Stanford

You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

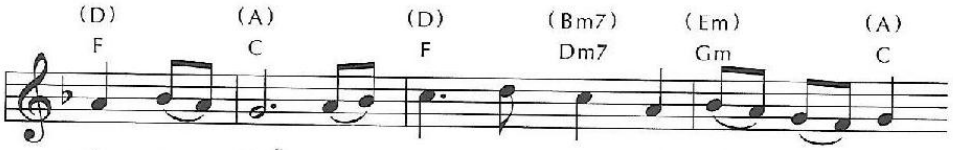
VERSE 1 ONLY

301 Let Us Build a House

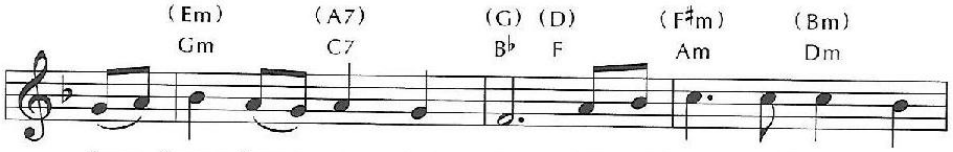
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

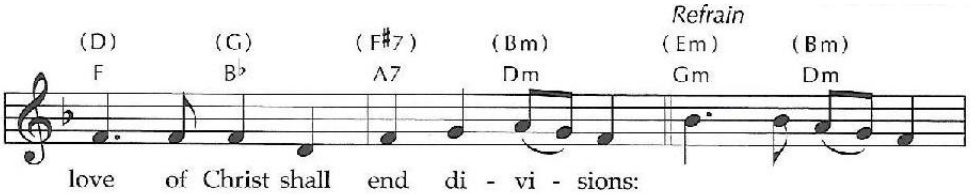


how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

79 Light Dawns on a Weary World



Together We Serve 767



COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JULY 26, 2026

If you are new to our church, welcome! Please complete a **"Connect Card,"** available in the Narthex.

For today: After our worship service, you have two opportunities to connect. We have tables set up in the Narthex for anyone who would like to **discuss the morning's sermon** and service. You're also invited to our **Lemonade on the Lawn** social time: we'll meet on the West Lawn (otherwise in the North Link). Thank you to the Rossetti family for hosting. If you'd like to host, you can sign up online (bit.ly/42TDejr) or on the paper form at the Narthex info table.

Here are your opportunities to participate in worship: *openings for next week* - you can **lead our children's sermons**, or serve as **lector** to share the scripture readings. The children's sermon sign up is at volunteersignup.org/hj4yy and the lector sign up is at bit.ly/3PQRBlq. There are also paper sign-ups for each in the Narthex.

New! **"Sharing our Bounty"** – bring your extra harvest to share at a table at Lemonade on the Lawn. Available for others to take, no charge! Anything left over will be donated to New Bethany.

For your calendar: **"Sitting with the Psalms"** will be offered on the five Sundays in August; everyone is welcome to join the conversation from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the Church Library.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@fpc-bethlehem.org
Rev. Dr. Steve Simmons, Parish Associate
David Macbeth, Director of Music Ministries; dmacbeth@fpc-bethlehem.org

CARE CONCERNS

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED: Please tell the hospital our church code is 724. Also, please call the church office at 610-867-5865 to let us know as the hospitals do not always collect this information. After hours, leave a message or call our answering service at 610-778-7003.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Send to prayer@fpc-bethlehem.org or call 610-867-5865 and leave a message.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Regular Church Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Urgent pastoral need? Please call our answering service at 610-778-7003.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – STAY CONNECTED!

We send an email newsletter each Friday morning; it will be emailed to those who request it: contact us at info@fpc-bethlehem.org or 610-867-5865. You can also request a printed copy be mailed to you.

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-867-5865 · fpc-bethlehem.org

Check our online calendar for all events and activities.
Your attendance at church events constitutes permission to use your image (photos and video) in church communications.
Questions about our policy: info@fpc-bethlehem.org

Use this code to donate through our secure website.