FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude in B minor op. 18 — Cesar Franck

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you heard? Something new is coming, a different world than the one we know.
And we're the ones to help make it happen!
Let us gather together, to support and encourage one another and to praise God -
for new visions, for hope, for new beginnings, and for new possibilities.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #466
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing — AZMON

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all the saints, God of all the sinners, hear our prayer. We would be saintlike – holy, good, patient, loving. But we end up feeling more like sinners – full of failures of morality, selfish, mean. Perhaps You see us simply as human – as beloved, and flawed, and trying, and failing, and succeeding. In all of this, forgive the wrong that we have done, and bless the good we have accomplished. Keep on loving us, and helping us, and molding us more and more into the image of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE
Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 12:1-5 Jean Hunsicker
Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

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

SERMON Rev. Karen Kinney

"Stones That Matter, Stones That Don't"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

How do negative stones of deceit and fear influence you? How might thinking of stones as positive building blocks of faith change your perception of God's power and steadfastness?

*SERMON HYMN #357
O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee MARYTON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This I truly believe. I believe in Jesus the Christ. I believe in the ever-present Spirit. I believe in God whose love transforms all things. Though false teachers come and delude the gullible, God's truth remains sure. Though temples crumble and churches wither, God's gospel remains sure. Though earthquakes strike and diseases ravage, God's purpose remains sure. Though good people suffer injustice and persecution, God's love remains sure. Though saints go to prison or face execution, God's life remains sure. I believe in God who treasures and nurtures us, who yearns over the fate of each one as if they were all, and who turns loss to gain and defeat to victory. This I truly believe. Amen!

Written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page. bruceprewer.com/DocC/C63sun33.htm

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 Lord Be With us as We Pray — David Catherwood

Chancel Choir

*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 — #343

Called as Partners in Christ's Service — BEECHER

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Dominus Regit Me" — arr. Gordon Young

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!

COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOV. 16, 2025

If you are new to our church – welcome! There are "**Connect Cards**" available in the Narthex to complete.

Many thanks for celebrating with us at last Sunday's 150th anniversary event! We shared details about our initiative for our 151st year: to collectively accomplish **1,510 acts of service** - details are in the newsletter and in the Narthex.

Last Sunday was **Stewardship Sunday** – gratitude to those who made their pledges! You can still make yours: pledge forms are in the Narthex; you can also sign up online on our website.

The **Hearts N Minds** adult ed class meets today at 10 a.m. in the Parlor; and the **Body N Soul** intergenerational group will meet at 10:10 a.m. in Room 216.

We are in need of **lectors** (readers) for several upcoming worship services. If you can help, please sign up on this easy online form (bit.ly/4qXt37X) or the sign-up in the Narthex.

Thank you for supporting the recent Scouting for Food drive! Please consider making donations to the **Preschool Food Drive**, which begins tomorrow (through Wednesday, Nov. 26). Collection boxes are by the south and Kirkland entrances, and in the Narthex. Donations will be shared with New Bethany.

Looking ahead: We will celebrate at a **Thanksgiving Eve** service on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary (and livestreamed on our website and Facebook page).

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@fpc-bethlehem.org
Rev. Cynthia Leslie 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 610-674-0005 for emergency pastoral messages (this is a new number).

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? Call 610-674-0005 for emergency pastoral messages (this is a new number).

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.