FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Give Me the Faith — Christopher Norton

Madison Zahorsky, soprano

OUR CENTERING (Silent) MEDITATION

We come overfilled with life, unable to take in anything more because of overload. We need to empty ourselves so as to be able to take in and receive. We listen to sounds of silence, searching, knowing emptiness and hunger. Then in reverence, humbly coming to be replenished by God.

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 95)

Come let us sing out loud to the Lord! Let us raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come before the Lord with thanks! Let's shout songs of joy to God! The Lord is a great God, the great king over all other gods.
Come let us worship and bow down! Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker!
He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep in his hands.
Let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #478

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven — LAUDA ANIMA

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

*Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and mercy, you have called us to live by your light, yet we have continued in ways of darkness. We hide from you and one another, often out of fear, rather than joining hands, hearts, and resources to live and work for your peace and justice in this world. Although called as Jesus' followers to live in confident hope of abundant life, we fearfully and anxiously strive instead to preserve and increase our personal well-being and profit. Forgive us for denying the light of hope in Christ. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to walk in the light, freely giving ourselves to others for Christ's sake. We ask these things in his name and offer our own silent confession… (*Silence)* **Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Jane Masters

John 12:12-18

Matthew 25:31-46

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Virginia B. Smith

"A Different Kind of King"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

CONFESSION OF FAITH [from *A Brief Statement of Faith,* Presbyterian Church (USA)]

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one Triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

*SERMON HYMN

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (from *Glory to God* – see insert) THE SERVANT SONG

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

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Shall We Gather at the River arr. Aaron Copland

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 #434

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples KINGSFOLD
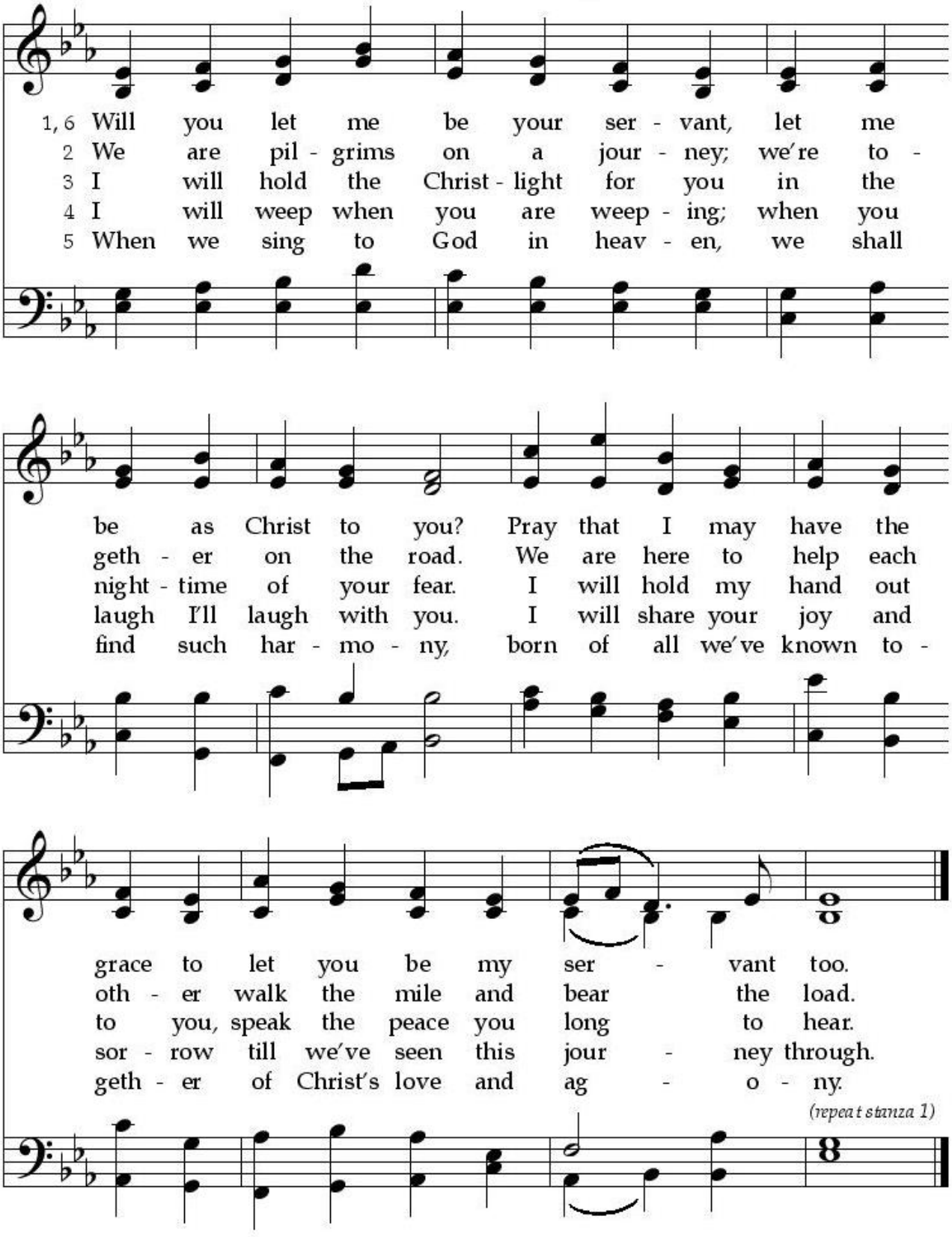
*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Kingsfold Trumpet arr. Noel Rawsthorne

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!

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOV. 22, 2026

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

We have **holiday cards** in the North Link for you to sign for church members who are unable to come to services.

Our two classes will meet next week: **Hearts N Minds adult ed** will meet from 10-11 a.m. in the Library (Room 210). **Body N Soul intergenerational class** will meet from 10:10-11 a.m. in Room 216. All are welcome!

Bethlehem Interfaith Group (BIG) offers its **Thanksgiving service of gratitude** in our Sanctuary this afternoon at 2 p.m., followed by a time of fellowship after the service. All are welcome.

Please join us Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary for our **Thanksgiving Eve worship service**. It will also be livestreamed on our Facebook page and website. The offering will be shared with Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering.

Hanging of the Greens will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon – volunteers of all ages are invited to help us deck the halls.

Orders for the **Fudge Fundraiser** to support our Afghan family are due Sunday, Dec. 6. **Poinsettia orders** for Chirstmas Eve are due Monday, Dec. 7; information for both is available on the table in the Narthex.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY
Rev. Dr. Virginia B. Smith, Parish Associate
Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@fpc-bethlehem.org
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.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
The building will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday, reopening on Monday, Nov. 30. 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!
If you would like to get our email or print newsletter: info@fpc-bethlehem.org or 610-867-5865.

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.