FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 2025

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Adagio in E — Frank Bridge

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Great is our God and greatly to be praised!
The whole earth reflects God's power and might.
When we recall the wonders of God's creation….
We rejoice at the awesome complexity of it all.
Lord, you have brought us up from fear to hope.
Let us worship and praise God for all God's faithfulness. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #483
Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above — MIT FREUDEN ZART

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, so often we do not know what to do. We feel caught between the options, uncertain of where you are leading. In our anxiety, we turn on each other, relying on sarcasm and mocking to bolster our pride. In our frustration, we ask all the wrong questions while never listening for an answer. In our fear, we sacrifice you on the altar of our own security and desire. Forgive us, O God. Yet, we stand at the threshold of your kingdom, Lord. Open wide the door of life, and give us the courage to walk through with hearts full of hope.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm: Psalm 42:1-11 Madison Zahorsky-Ross

Gospel: Luke 9:51-55

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Dr. William Hess

"A Theology of Hope"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Reflect on these verses from Psalm 42: "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God." What does it mean to you to hope in God?

*SERMON HYMN #408

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life GERMANY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

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 Psalm 135 — J. Daryl Hollinger

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 — #457

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art — TOULON

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune in D — David N. Johnson

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. 23, 2025

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

We are happy to **welcome Rev. Dr. William Hess** to our service today; he was Interim Pastor from 2016-2017.

We are grateful to those who have made their **2026 pledges**! You can still make yours: pledge forms are in the Narthex; you can also sign up online on our website.

This afternoon: **Bethlehem Interfaith Group** offers its annual Thanksgiving celebration at 3 p.m. at Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 514 3rd Ave. And **soprano Madison Zahorsky presents a recital** at 4 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Both events are open to all.

The **Preschool Food Drive** continues through Tuesday, Nov. 25. Collection boxes are by the south and Kirkland entrances, and in the Narthex. Food will go to New Bethany. And you're invited to the **Preschool Thanksgiving Chapel** this Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

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

Can you help? We'll do our annual **Hanging of the Greens** on Saturday between 10 a.m. – noon.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Dr. William Hess

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 (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.