FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship Service
The Thireteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

WE GATHER

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

PRELUDE Came to My Rescue — arr. Dan Galbraith

Contemporary Ensemble

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come together to worship.
In a spirit of love, and with the hope of transformation.
God, you loved us first,
so that we could be your hands and feet.
Transform our hearts
so that we may have the strength and grace to love all.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #554

Let All Things Now Living — ASH GROVE

WE CONFESS

*EMBODIED CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We Are One in the Spirit (verse 1 and Chorus) — Peter Scholtes

Verse 1

We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our Love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

*Please stand if you are able

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE
Psalm 139:1-14
Acts 9:1-21 — Al Philpotts

SERMON — Rev. Karen Kinney
Presence, Union, Transformation

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION
Think of a time when you experienced the presence of God – what was the situation, what did you hear or learn? How might you practice the presence of God in daily living?

*SERMON HYMN — #324
Open My Eyes That I May See — OPEN MY EYES

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church…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!"

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING
Call to Give
Offertory: Ave Verum Corpus, K. 618 — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (from *Glory to God)* — GLORY TO GOD

SERVICE MUSIC



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

…Together we proclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

…we embrace this profound mystery with all our heart:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

INTERCESSIONS

CONSECRATION

THE 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION Unfailing Love — Chris Tomlin
Contemporary Ensemble

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of sharing with Christ, this holy mystery. Through this means of grace we have experienced "eyes myself". We have caught a glimpse of the Savior who is in our world today. Now send us out with joy, to share the good news that is for all people: Our God is real, transforming every life with blessing. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me *(see insert* – from *Glory to God)* — GREEN TYLER

*SUNG BENEDICTION

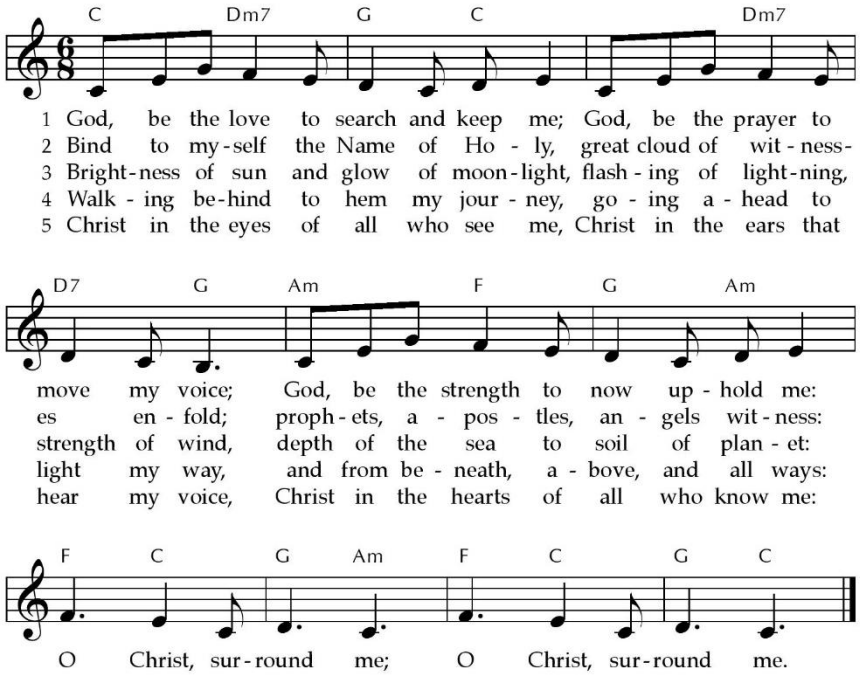
May the Peace of the Lord Christ Go with You *(see insert)* — Peter Sutcliffe

POSTLUDE "Paean", from *Six Works for Organ* (1940) — Herbert Howells

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!

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



May the Peace of the Lord Christ Go with You

