



Traditional Worship Service
The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on "Liebster Jesu, wir sing hier", BWV 731

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather around, you are welcome here. Come into this space and hear the Good News.

In a world filled with discouraging and negative voices, we look to the God of endurance and encouragement.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

So come in, let your weariness roll away, and open your hearts.

With one mind and one voice, let us glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, welcoming one another just as Christ has welcomed us, to the glory of God!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship God!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Let All Things Now Living

#554

ASH GROVE

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and beloved God, you promise us your Spirit – a constant companion, a wise guide, a source of courage and peace. Yet we confess that we often close our hearts to your presence. We cling to control when you ask us to trust, and we choose comfort over calling.
(continued...)

*Please stand as you are able.

You lead us to those in need, but we hesitate to help. You open doors for justice, but we walk past them in awkward silence. You whisper truth, but we turn up the volume of living our lives. Forgive us, Spirit of Truth. Unclench our hands. Unblock our ears. Unbind our hearts. And wherever we are – wherever you send us – help us walk in your Way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved of God, hear this Good News: The Spirit of Truth is not distant or demanding, but near, gentle, and steadfast.

By the Spirit's grace, we are forgiven, renewed, and never alone. Amen.

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Bob Hunsicker and Anna Hunsicker

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10

Epistle: Romans 15:4-13

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Karen Kinney

“Welcomed to Welcome: Breaking Barriers, Building Community”

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

The text mentions a "little child" leading these formerly dangerous creatures (v. 6). Building a wider, integrated community requires immense vulnerability. What comforts, privileges, or protective walls might our group or church need to let down in order to step into collaborative justice work?

*SERMON HYMN

#358

Help us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that God has come to us; that God brought us into being,
that this God gave us breath and purpose,
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,
that we have fallen short of this commandment
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness. (*continued...*)**

**We believe that God is coming to us; that God is not happy to leave us alone,
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us;
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect “Alleluia!”**

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 STEWARDSHIP AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory The King of Love my Shepherd Is

arr. Edward Bairstow

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**

#360

Hope of the World

DONNE SECOURS

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Maestoso in C minor, Op. 193, No. 1

Charles V. Stanford

Flowers are given by Barbara Burger in loving memory of her husband, Ted Burger

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 OCT. 25, 2026

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

This afternoon at 4 p.m., **organist Luke DiGiacinto** will present a special recital in our Sanctuary. It is open to all; a free will offering will be taken at the door.

For next Sunday (Nov. 1) we will offer a **congregational meeting** after the Traditional worship service. It will be offered both in person and via Zoom (to request the link, contact us at info@fpc-bethlehem.org).

The **Photovoice project** will meet after today’s worship service, from 12:45-2:45 p.m. in Room 212 (and also tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.). This is an initial discussion about this project – please come if you have any interest in learning more.

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!

For tomorrow’s **Hi Neighbors speakers program**: Emily Lyter from Good Shepherd will share **“The Latest Advances in Rehabilitation and the Effect of AI in Rehab Practices.”** The social time begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by the program at 10 a.m.

Bethlehem Interfaith Group (BIG) offers its **Faith Crawl: Sacred Departures and Destinations** next Sunday, Nov. 1 from 2-5 p.m. The event includes tours at local faith sites; RSVP deadline is today: bit.ly/4BgL5Y1

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.

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!

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



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