



Combined Worship Service
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Build Your Kingdom Here

The Rend Collective

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have started on a road that will take us to where God calls.

It is a journey we take together, and a journey each makes alone.

We are invited to notice things on the way –

To notice the sharp stones, the uneven ground, the mercy of shade, the faithfulness of those who walk with us.

We carry little with us but that which is in our hearts:

Hope, trust, fear, apprehension, wonder, sorrow.

On this walk we rest and sing and pray and listen.

In our worship, we rest and sing and pray and listen.

Then let us worship God.

“Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.”

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

#416

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

WE CONFESS

***EMBODIED CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Please stand as you are able.**

SCRIPTURE

Barbara Hjorth

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:4-5

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Karen Kinney

“Built of Breath, Not Brick”

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Peter calls believers “living stones” rather than static, unfeeling building blocks. Why is this distinction important? How does it change how we view our dependence on each other within the community of faith? How does it reorient your mindset to realize *you and your community* are now the address where God dwells?

*SERMON HYMN

Let Us Build a House (from *Glory to God*; see insert)

ALL ARE WELCOME

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *Confession of 1967*)

No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: **“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”**

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.

We are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

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 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Chancel Choir

arr. Theron Kirkon

*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

#442

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIAS

*BENEDICTION

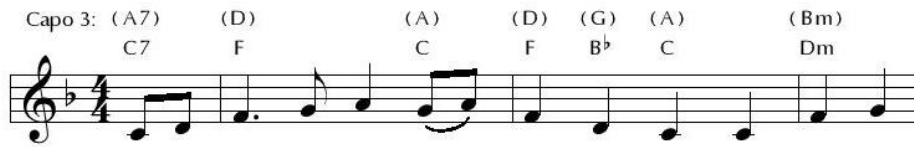
POSTLUDE "Maestoso" from *10 Pieces for Organ*

Theodore Dubois

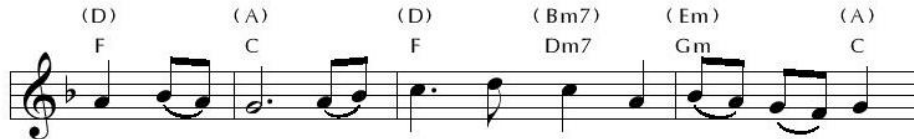
*You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!*

Let Us Build a House

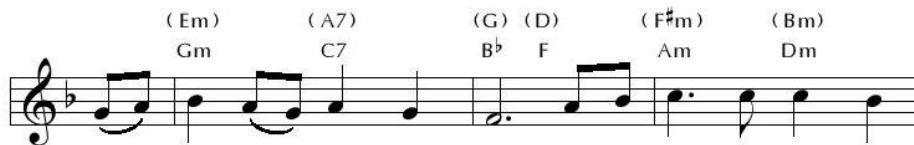
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



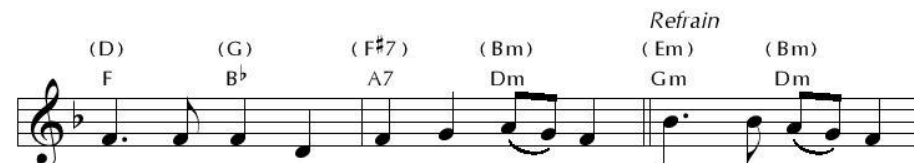
safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OCT. 18, 2026

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

For today we are offering a **Combined worship service** at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, also livestreamed on Facebook and our website. This will be followed by a congregational meeting for the purpose of approving the terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Presbyterian Senior Living; it will be offered both in person and via Zoom.

Our two classes will NOT meet this week. They will return 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!

If you're interested in participating in the **PhotoVoice Research project**, please contact the main office at info@fpc-bethlehem.org and 610-867-5865.

For tomorrow's **Hi Neighbors speakers program**: Dr. John Marsella from the Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum brings **“William Allen and the Founding of Allentown”** to our audience. 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 another **Faith Crawl** on Sunday, Nov. 1 from 2-5 p.m. The theme is “Exploring Death, Afterlife, and Remembrance Across Faiths.” For more details and to register: bit.ly/4iIV32S

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@fpc-bethlehem.org

Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Associate Pastor for Justice and Community Impact; lclifton@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

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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