

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2020



Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: **And also with you!**

A: Let us pray together,

C: **O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me

Verse 1

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

Verse 2

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”

Verse 3

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and so such as this unseen, And admit to what I mean in you and you in me.”

Verse 4

“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you’ve found to re-shape the world around, Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me.”

Verse 5

“Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I’ll go, where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.”

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah’s delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God’s hand upon him and God’s seeming unfaithfulness. God’s tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, “I am with you.”

¹⁵O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for

you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Final Blessing / Dismissal

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Sending Song on next page)

Sending Song: Dwell in Your House

Verse 1

You set me apart, gave me a new heart. Filled with compassion to share Your great love.
Show me Your ways, I want to know You. Guide me in truth, my hope is in You.

Chorus

That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.
That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.

Verse 2

I'll hold on to You, my strength and my refuge. Whom shall I fear, I know You are near.
All of my days, I live for You Lord. Establish my path, there's one thing I ask.

Chorus

That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.
That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.

Bridge

Holy Spirit have Your way. Sweet anointing teach our hearts, our lives we pray.

Chorus

That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.
That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.



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"2.0" is coming! We are excited to announce that a new experience is coming soon for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On **Wednesday Nights**, join Pastor Paul and others for an online **Holden Evening Prayer or Taize service**, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into a new Wednesday experience. We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

The AUGUST issue of the STAR is here! The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for three months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) They are continuing to complete the lion's share of the work after it is printed, collated, and stapled, but now the cost of postage is being taken from the membership budget. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office or tell the Sunday greeter or hospitality team so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARs will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

With the recent rescinding of Gov. Whitmer's full stay-at-home order and new guidelines by the Governor regarding different "phases" of safety for re-opening gathering venues, **we continue this week with our "Greenspace Worship" on the West Lawn. You are encouraged to B.Y.O.C. (Bring your own chair). Safety is our primary concern.**

The outdoor "**Shooting STAR Dispenser**" at BLC is **now full** with new DVDs for April and May virtual church services and several paper publications, including the August STAR. More recent DVDs on the way.

Altar flowers have returned to our worship services. If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at admin@bethlehemtc.org – the cost is \$40 per week.

Bethlehem Campout has been scheduled for September 18-19 at Log Lake Campground near Kalkaska. Please make your own reservation by calling the campground at 231-258-2940. For further information, you can call Leonard or Barb Graf at 231-946-5120

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Cindy and Jim Monroe in celebration of acceptance of new members into Bethlehem*

Today, New Members will be formally accepted into Bethlehem. The new members and their sponsors include the following:

Erin and Ryan Freye sponsored by Erin and Zach Word
Rose Taylor sponsored by Annie Slabaugh
Scott Farley sponsored by Kristen Rivard
Phil and Denice Bossardet sponsored by Carl and Suzanne Lehto.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated cans and bottles toward our Youth this summer! Your outpouring generosity was amazing and we got a LOT of cans! Thank you to everyone who helped out and supported our Youth. Although there are some families still getting their deposits in...I wanted to share with you all our current total! With your help and support we were able to collect **\$1041.64** so far toward future youth events! Thank you so much again!

Share your name please! It can be hard to think of someone's name when you do not see the entire face because of a mask and when someone is wearing sunglasses. If you have an old name tag at home, please consider wearing it. If not, please stop at the greeter's table when you come for the greenspace service and you or the greeter can make you a tag. Even though we are mainly at a distance of 6 feet, it is still nice to hear your own name especially when you come forward for communion.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org or *Sharon* at admin@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

Pecans are coming! Pecans are coming! The Worship and Music committee will sell the popular Schermer pecans again this fall. Instead of having a table set up inside the church, we will take orders for ***Dark Chocolate Pecans, Caramel Cluster Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans***. The \$12 bags are perfect for holiday or hostess gifts or just plain munching. We will be ordering at the end of September for delivery at the end of October. So that we know how much to order, please contact Barbara Oster (231-668-7038 or beo6475@yahoo.com) by the end of September.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is now virtual!!! "Bible Stories" will continue each Monday at 6PM on Zoom until August 31st. Registration is still open so go to myvbs.com/blcbiblestories and register your child TODAY to get the Zoom Link! Please contact Annie Slabaugh at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org if you have any questions or concerns.

The Annual Chili Cook Off has been postponed to a later date, as was our May Jubilee service. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the fall!)

Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 7:30pm on Wednesdays with a crossover to WBLC on Facebook around 7:45pm. We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.

"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. Our subject matter is now more of a book study using the Walt Wangerin book ***Paul: A Novel***, on the famous apostle plus whatever life and ministry guides us as we meet...which gives us plenty of good stuff to talk about.