

The Service for the Lord's Day  
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 5, 1020 ~ 9:30 am

*(Items in bold are in unison. An asterisk \* indicates a place where the people stand as they are able.)*

## GATHERING

### **Ringing the Bell**

**Prelude, "Communion"**

Louis Vierne

### **Welcome and Announcements**

This is the day that the Lord has made  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### **Filling the Baptismal Font**

*Celebrating the baptismal anniversaries of Sean Matthew Tolkaacz and Ryan Scott Tolkaacz.*

### **Call to Worship**

*Based on Psalm 81:1, 10-16*

Sing aloud to God our strength;  
who delivered the people from slavery in Egypt.  
People who turned away and followed the desires of their own hearts.  
But God's yearning to nourish them –  
to feed them with the finest of wheat,  
and the sweetest of honey - never changed.  
**We praise God who is the same yesterday, today and forever.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**\*Hymn 461 "God is Here!"**

### **Prayer of Confession**

God of the weak willed and God of the strong, of the clever and the foolish,  
the humble and the powerful, please continue to have mercy on your people.  
Forgive the weak for giving in too easily when the pressures of work,  
family or community wear them down until they become irritable.  
Forgive the strong for pushing ahead with scant regard for those in their way,  
and for despising those who can't push back.  
Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

Forgive the foolish for rushing into poor decisions,  
and then berating others when things go drastically wrong.

Forgive the clever for using their skills and knowledge  
to overwhelm lesser intellects in order to get their own way.  
Christ have mercy.  
**Christ have mercy.**

Forgive the humble for using their lowly status  
as an excuse for lack of compassion and for the evasion of responsibility.  
Forgive the powerful for becoming arrogant,  
and insensitive to the joys and troubles of those who are affected by their decisions.  
Lord have mercy,  
**Lord have mercy.**

**Most loving God,**  
**bring to bear on our lives the saving grace of Christ Jesus.**  
**Give us the desire and the courage to repent,**  
**and help us not to be too proud to accept a mercy**  
**which asks nothing but our acceptance of it.**  
**Enable us to put right whatever we can,**  
**and to let go of the remainder, leaving it in your hands.**  
**Through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

### **Silent Confession**

#### **Declaration of Pardon**

Hear the good news!  
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
Friends, believe the gospel.  
In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

#### **\*The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

#### **And also with you**

*The people may exchange with one another, by words and gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.*

#### **\*Congregational Response, "Gloria Patri"**

579

### **Message for All God's Children**

**\*Hymn 521 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"**

## THE WORD

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture Readings**

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Pew Bible page 227

Pew Bible page 77

**Sermon**

**Profession of Faith**, The Apostles' Creed

**THANKSGIVING**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**, "Come Every One Who is Thirsty" arr/Thomas & Fetke  
Duet: Charles Asbury and Bob Seymour

**\*Doxology**, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 592

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

(laminated card in pew)

**The Breaking of Bread**

*1 Corinthians 10:16-17*

**The Holy Communion of the People**

**Closing Prayer**

**Because the broken bread has meant our healing,  
because the outpoured cup has meant our life,  
because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls,  
and because we have been graced by your presence,  
God, we give you thanks,  
and pray that our lives may be  
renewed in the life and love of Jesus Christ. Amen.**



*Bethlehem Presbyterian Church*

Route #513 at Grandin Road/Race Street

2 Race Street

Pittstown, NJ 08867

*Founded in 1730*



Rev. Laurie B. Sponaugle, *Pastor*  
Alicia Tamilio, *Christian Education Director*  
Helene Cantilina, *Music Director*

*Church and Christian Education Building, 908-735-5733*  
*E-mail: bpcnj@bethlehempc.org <http://www.bethlehempc.org>*

# SENDING

*\*Hymn 400 “When We Are Living”*

***\*Charge and Blessing***

Return to your homes, your work, your play,  
refreshed, renewed, and filled with the  
power of the Holy Spirit.

**We have met the Christ in word and sacrament,  
in listening and sharing.**

Gather at other tables with friends and loved ones,  
knowing that Christ is there as well as here.

**We welcome the love and acceptance we know here  
and at other places where we break bread.**

All our moments and meetings can be sacramental,  
if we live in the awareness of whose we are.

**We pray that our eyes may be opened  
and our spirits attuned to live in Christ. Amen.**

*\*Postlude, “Partita on ‘Ora Labora’”*

arr/Austin Lovelace

---

*We welcome to the pulpit this morning Rev. Nancy Asbury.*

## SUNDAY SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Liturgist         | Gene Arace   |
| Deacon of the Day | Ryan Ford  |
| Coffee Hour Hosts | The Duerr Family   |
| Communion Servers | Bob Negoescu, Bobby Negoescu,<br>Ann Bartlett and Shirley Albright |

Flowers this morning are given by Marsha Atkinson.

Large print hymnals, Bibles, and personal amplifiers are available from an usher.

We welcome to our church “working dogs and therapeutic dogs.”

If you have to leave the sanctuary, the service can be heard in the Parlor (the room at the bottom of the stairs next to the Fellowship Hall).

Please contact the Deacon of the Day who will be happy to assist you with the elevator.

**In preparation for next week’s service, please read Luke 15:11-32.**

**The sermon title is “Welcome Back Welcome Home.”**

### *Prayers of the People*

Mary Bloemeke  
Margaret Negoescu  
Ed Allen

Helen Thorne  
Jean and John Smith  
Marcia Pearson

Herb Hart  
Helen Potter  
Jim O'Neil

Mike, Marilyn Ford's nephew  
Frances Goldner, Maria Klein's mother  
Joy Anderson, Marilyn Frankenbach's sister  
Edna, Helen Frazee's sister-in-law  
Gladys Judice, Lou's mother  
Grace, friend of Linda Allen  
David Rossnagle, family friend of the O'Neil's  
Jeanne Itak, Jill O'Neil's cousin  
Ginny Bruno, friend of Lois Arace  
Paul Parkin, friend of Ed Allen  
Brian Lewis, Mike Lewis's Dad  
Betty and her family-Liz Hontz  
Ian Heffernan, Helen Potter's Grandson  
Roger Sliker, friend of Marsha Atkinson  
Cathy Grenchi, friend of Wallace's  
Barbara Harvey, friend of Wallace's  
Leonard Shulman, friend of Lier's  
Bobby, sister to Ruth Rinehart  
Jim, son-in-law of Helen Hofgesang  
Lilly, Granddaughter of Stan & Helene  
Cantilina  
Joan Driessen, friend of Decker's  
Amy Motazedi, friend of Aleta Lambert  
Wendy Arace, relative of Lois Arace  
Betty Wydner, friend of the Schultz family  
David Sellers, from the Acocella Family  
Jennifer Byram's family  
The Swyzen family, friends of Jenny Vander Veen  
Alex Tarletsky, friend of Greg Acocella  
Jackie Do, family member of Shirley Albright

Karen Remington, Jill O'Neil's sister-in-law  
Joan, cousin of Aleta Lambert  
Bill & Dorothy, Kevin Klein's in-laws  
Julia Chergy, friend of Stephanie Foss  
Rayanna, friend of Sue Dean  
Richard O'Hara, cousin of Priscilla Wallace  
Bonnie Cowle & Frank Clark, friends of  
Alberta Madsen  
Richard Keller, father of Liza Brightly  
Ashton Vail, friend of Fader's  
Laura Jade, friend of Charles Asbury  
Naomi Grace Basso, friend of Stephanie Foss  
Jessica Centamore  
Raymond Soldavin, father of Marc  
Stacey, friend of Bob & Pat Timko  
Aleta, friend of the Arace's  
The Taylor family & Michael cousin of  
Marge Hendrickson  
Doug Van Camp, father of Eileen Kandl  
Bill Ingraham, friend of Shirley Albright  
Roger, friend of Marge Hendricksen  
Melinda Mendoza, friend of Terri Acocella  
Eric Zaboloskey, family member of Pearson's  
Jane deMars, mother of Nancy Coldreck  
Family of Sharon Simons-Mocker friend of  
Acocella Family  
James Rogers, cousin of Karen Hoff  
Jeannie Patrick, friend of Louise Black  
Heather Hendricksen, daughter-in-law of  
Marge Hendricksen

#### *Service personnel:*

✠ Nick Arace son of Gene and Laura Arace, grandson of Lois Arace;

**If you would like a person added or taken off our prayer list, please write their name on the communication card in the bulletin and check the appropriate box and place it in the offering plate.**

### Announcements:

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS** ~ the office will be open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. However, Nancy will only be in the office Wednesday through Fridays.

**HELP!** Looking for "Welcome Mats" to borrow with the word "WELCOME" on it. Please bring the mats to the office by Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and label them so that we can return them after September 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### This Week:

**Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ Special Session Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Commissions, 8:00pm

**Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ Mission Circle, 10:30 am  
Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm  
Deacons Meeting, 7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Youth Kick-Off Event 6:00 pm

**Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ Worship Service, 8:15 am  
Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 am-9:30 am  
Rally in the Sanctuary, 9:30 am  
Chancel Choir, 10:00 am  
Worship Service, 11:00 am

#### Coming Soon:

September 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Camping at Bull's Island State Park, 1:00 pm

September 25<sup>th</sup> ~ BPW Roast Beef Dinner, 5:00 pm

September 26<sup>th</sup>-October 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Interfaith Hospitality Network

## Reminder

We are returning to the **Fall Schedule/Rally Day** on

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

Services at 8:15 am and 11:00 am

Sunday School at 9:30 am