



The United Church of Bethel
An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA

3rd Sunday
After Epiphany
Jan 22, 2023

The Brick Church c.1816
Embarking upon our
3rd Century of Service in Christ

Tom Harty, Pastor
Becky Kondi - Keyboard
Larry Nobile - Guitar & Vocals
Stoddard/Apelquist Family – Tech Team



Deacons

Lyndell Davis – (802) 728-5714
ljdavis@myfairpoint.net
Ann Hyde – (802) 234-6240
hydiie@aol.com
Nancy Barr – (802) 392-8085
barr.nancy8732@gmail.com
Pat Densmore – (802) 763-7089

The United Church of Bethel

PO Box 28
Bethel, VT 05032
unitedchurchofbethel.org

Pastor Tom Harty Available 24/7 x 365
Home: (802) 728-4294
Cell: (802) 793-4521
Email: tjharty@comcast.net

Our Faith is 2000 Years Old; Our Thinking is Not

The United Church of Bethel

Whoever you are, Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.

✠ = *Please Stand If You Are Able*

Centering & Prelude Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Responsive Call to Worship

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

P We lift them up to the Lord

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

P It is right to give him thanks and praise

L Our ever-present God dwells in the sanctuary and in homes, in public spaces and our interior lives.

P Behold the greatness of the Holy One in the expansiveness of these sacred spaces.

L We seek God's face on Sunday mornings and evenings... and throughout the week.

P Live in the presence of the Holy One all the days of our lives.

L We call out for God's grace, strength, and guidance.

P Seek the face of the Holy One. Recognize God's greatness.

Invocation & Lord's Prayer

✠ **Hymn** NCH 393

Blessed Be The Tie That Binds

Prayer of Confession

L Sovereign God, how often do we turn toward ourselves or others for validation, salvation, and deliverance rather than seek your wisdom, will, and way?

P How often have we sought our own measure of greatness apart from the realm of your kingdom?

L How long have you waited for us to seek you?

P Forgive us, O God, and call us back to your presence, plan, and purpose.

Assurance of Pardon

L The One who creates us in the divine image knows how tempted we may be to consider ourselves more highly than we ought or more lowly than we should. The One who knows us continually reaches toward us with the promise of grace and the hope of mercy, faithfulness, and love. Receive God's forgiveness and restorative embrace.

Passing the Peace

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

*℟️ Do not forsake me
O God of my salvation*

✠ Gloria Patri

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Choral Anthem

✠ Gospel:

Matthew 4:12-23

✠ Hymn NCH 449

Softly and Tenderly

Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

Offering

✠ Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

✠ Hymn NCH 493

O Jesus, I have Promised

✠ Benediction

✠ Choral Benediction

Postlude

(Please remain seated for a period of quiet meditation and appreciation for the music our worship team provides.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

- ℟️ I delight to do your will, O my God, I delight to do your will.*
- ℣️ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*
- ℣️ One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,*
- ℟️ I delight to do your will, O my God, I delight to do your will.
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.*
- ℣️ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent: he will set me high on a rock.*
- ℣️ Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.*
- ℣️ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!*
- ℣️ "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.*
- ℣️ Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!*
- ℟️ I delight to do your will, O my God, I delight to do your will.*

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.