

Youth Sunday

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

November 15, 2020



1300 St. Francis Road
Santa Rosa, California 95409

www.blc-bcc.com

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

AND BETHLEHEM CHILDREN'S CENTER

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Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2020

Worship Notes

WELCOME to the fellowship of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We gather to give praise and thanks to the One who has given us Christ Jesus, and through him, all things. Our goal is to rejoice in the presence of the Lord before we begin a new week, to support one another in prayer and to challenge one another to live as people of God in our homes, offices, shops, factories, schools and playgrounds. We believe the Christian life is the most rewarding, demanding and fulfilling life possible ... Please join us.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Gathered to worship,
Equipped by the Holy Spirit,
Strengthened through community,
Sent in peace to serve the Lord.

CHILDREN are welcome to join their parents in worship. A separate Children's Sermon available online and within this service.

ONLINE WORSHIP:

Please join us for worship on our YouTube channel "Pastor Bill Bethlehem Santa Rosa" <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5xTmtCjUddP81wRiTd2C8w> or on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa Please feel free to share with friends, remember to like, write a comment, friend or subscribe. All connections available through our website: blc-bcc.com

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

WORDS OF WELCOME

INVOCATION

Leader: Reach out today! Reach out and touch a life that is near you.

People: Lord take our hands and use them to encourage, love and heal.

Leader: Share the grace and love of God with those around you.

People: Lord I give you my life. Help me share it with others today.

OPENING HYMN “Here I Am, Lord” Praise Band

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

People: Lord, our thoughts, our words, and our deeds have brought us to our knees. We are weighed down with guilt, and weary from our sin. We have turned inward, ignoring the needs of those around us.

We have become self-centered, neglecting your Holy Spirit within us. We are out of touch with you, trying to make it on our own. We need your hands of grace and mercy in our lives. We need your touch, Lord. Reach out to us, we pray.

Touch us with your Spirit, so that we might be forgiven and renewed.

Have mercy on us Lord, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

Leader: God reaches out to us in the midst of our failures, our rebellion and sin. With incredible grace and far-reaching love, God has embraced us again as beloved children, precious and holy, the body of Christ. “You are forgiven! You are clean! You are mine!” says the Lord. Rejoice now in the love of God! Be empowered to reach out and give with all your heart!

SONG OF PRAISE “You Are My God” Praise Band

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my eyes to see as you see. I give you my tongue to speak your words. I give you my mind to think as you think. I give you my spirit so that you may pray in me. I give you myself so that you may grow in me. So that it is you, Lord Jesus, who lives and works and prays in me. Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON “Chess or Checkers?” Julia Carr

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Following the reading...

Assistant: Word of God. Word of Life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Assistant: Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth
were born,
from age to age you are God.**

Assistant: You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

**People: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

Assistant: you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**People: in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Assistant: For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**People: Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

Assistant: When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**People: The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away
quickly and we are gone.**

Assistant: Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

**People: So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

PSALM PRAYER

Reader: Eternal Father, you alone are the constant refuge of all the children of earth. Hold all our years in the day of your grace, and grant us wisdom to serve you faithfully throughout our span of life. In the hour of death, O God, receive us into the light of your steadfast love, and satisfy us in the resurrection morning with life that never ends; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: **Amen.** -ELW

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Following the reading...

Assistant: Word of God. Word of Life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

"Use It or Lose It"

Molly, Ross & Sarah

Based on Matthew 25:14-30

ANTHEM

"All Good Gifts"

Cross Connections

MESSAGE

"We Are God's Gift"

Katrina Anderson

Silence for meditation and reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

"All of My Life"

Praise Band

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in the far-reaching love of God, who planned out our salvation from the beginning of time, who works dynamically towards the fulfillment of all good things, who continues to create new and beautiful things in our lives of faith.

We believe in the out-stretched arms of Jesus Christ, who reached out beyond himself to those in need. He reaches out in power for those who need healing in their lives. He reaches out with compassion for those who need to be loved. He reaches out in truth for those in need of a Savior.

We believe in the healing touch of the Spirit, at work within us, prompting us to draw near to God, causing us to shine for Christ, and encouraging us to reach out in love.

We believe in the ministry of our church. We believe in the holiness of the water and the wine.

We believe in the service of hands and heart, of prayer and friendship. We believe in the calling of Christ to be light in this world. We believe in these things. Lord, let them be done in us. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

We pray today for loved ones and friends who are ill and recovering, especially Margaret Warwick, Don Hux, Vivian Farland, Dorothy Gullixson, Sharon Boschen, Gina Thompson, Janet Wolf, Brianne Konanz, Sue Barnard, Linda Wilkening, Tom Ziegler, Steve Sturgeon, Donald Schaap, Wyatt Hughes Graham, Judy & Paul Sengstock, Martin Curtis, Judy Warner, Elaine Gutsch, Liz Halburg, Angie Salado, Richard Doran, JoAnn Lockhard, Darci Raphael, Greg Talmadge and Jesse Halderman.

Assistant: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

Assistant: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

The prayer concludes:

Pastor: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

The minister and congregation share the peace of the risen Christ, saying these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

1 Thessalonians 5

Pastor: Now ¹...concerning the times and the seasons,
brothers and sisters,
¹¹...encourage one another
and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.
⁹For God has destined us not for wrath
but for obtaining salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
¹⁰who died for us... so that
we may live with him. Amen.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Send Us Out”

Praise Band

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Go out and let your light shine!

People: We Will! Thanks be to God.



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Presiding..... Pastor Bill Wessner
Reader Richard Graalfs
Praise Band..... George Schweizer, Melissa Preston
Dan Thomson, Richard Graalfs, Carolyn Cole-Schweizer
Pr. Brian Claasen, Janet Bertoli, George Carson
& Peggy Bimbi
Children’s Sermon Julia Carr
“Use It or Lose It” Sarah Carr, Molly McNeil
& Ross Winn
Message Katrina Anderson
Prayers of the ChurchSiri Fenson, Susan Wessner,
Kathy Ziegler, Janet Krug & Michelle Frabotta
DismissalMadison Frabotta

Special thanks to Laura Lightfoot & Janet Bertoli for organizing our Youth Service.

Thank you to our Cross Connections Choir, our Youth, Praise Band and to ALL who help with our worship!

Musical Reference:

“Here I Am, Lord” ELW #574

“You Are My God” W&P #159

“All Good Gifts” By: Natalie Sleeth

“All of My Life” Dakota Road pg. 26

“Send Us Out” Dakota Road pg. 50

