

5th Sunday after Epiphany

*Indicates that all who are able are invited to stand.
Bold type invites the people to respond.
PH by hymns denotes the large hymnal &
STF is the blue soft sided hymnal

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude
Lighting the Candles and Ringing of the Bell
Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:
ONE: We are salt for the earth.
ALL: We are a light for the world.
ONE: Just as no one hides a lamp away,
ALL: we will offer the world what only we can give.
ONE: In shining our lights, we will remember:
ALL: We are not the only ones with vital wisdom.
ONE: Grateful for mutual enlightenment,
ALL: we will not drown out another’s beam with ours.

*Morning Prayer

*Hymn Just As I Am, Without One Plea PH-370

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Patient God, it is so easy for us to miss the point. We know how to perform righteousness; we go to church, we donate, we volunteer, but we care more about how we are seen than our faithfulness to you. We show off our piousness, instead of actually sharing our food, our homes, our resources with those in the most need. Have mercy on us for the ways we serve ourselves, and teach us your way, the way that leads to justice and peace. (Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.)
...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness
Beloved, hear the good news: When we cry for help, God says, “Here I am!” When we ask for mercy, God grants it freely, longing for a closer walk with us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Words of Peace
Please turn to one another with a wave and a smile as you share God’s peace.

*Congregational Response Glory Be to the Father PH-579

We Listen For God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Reading ends: A new teaching, with authority!
Thanks be to God!

Responsive Psalm Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

ONE: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God’s commandments!
ALL: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
ONE: Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.
ALL: Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
ONE: It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice..
ALL: For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
ONE: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
ALL: Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.
ONE: They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
ALL: The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

New Testament Lesson 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Reading ends: A new teaching, with authority!
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:13-20
Reading ends: A new teaching, with authority!
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn How Firm A Foundation PH-361

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Response: hear our prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Offering
Thank you for your gifts of financial support of Bethel’s ministries which may be placed in the offering plate near the main entrance to the sanctuary either before or following worship. Please hold our ministries in your prayers as a piece of music is shared during this time.

*Congregational Response Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

We Leave to Serve God

*Hymn Let All Things Now Living PH-554
*Charge and Blessing
*Congregational Response Song of Hope PH-432
Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Rev. Lori Kleppe, Gregg Kleppe, Lay Leader; Linda Johansen, Musician

Pastor Kleppe would welcome visiting you in your home or at a coffee shop in town. Her contact information is 563-380-8187 or lori.kleppe@gmail.com

"Sanctuary Sips", a hospitality table, has been placed in the narthex. Please help yourself to a beverage which may be brought into the sanctuary.

Members and friends of Bethel who seek healing and wholeness in their lives are kept in prayer during worship.

Today we are remembering – Cathy Bemiss, Teri Brockway, Don Durscher, Sarah Updegraff Murray, Kirk Bruso, Rose Marie Knight (Julie Larson's mom), Darwin Schrage, Mike Schroyer, and the family of Cindy Barness.

Stoney Brook - Kate Ewing, Kathy Meyer
Good Samaritan Center - Peggi Pape
Eastern Star Decorah – Doyle Gorden
Maple Crest – Tex Heyer
Copper Creek – Sandy Schnor

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Today, February 8

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Fellowship following

Monday, February 9

9:30 a.m. Diaconate

Thursday, February 12

9:30 a.m. Sewing Circle

Next Sunday, February 15

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Fellowship following

Session Meets

We need volunteers for Lay Leaders. Please sign up on the list in the fellowship hall.

Welcome to Worship at Bethel Presbyterian Church!

-The order of service is found in your bulletin and projected on the screen.

-An * shows the time when the congregation stands. If it is more comfortable to remain seated, please do so.

-Restrooms are found on each level of the church. An usher will help you find your way. Fully accessible restrooms are located in the basement.

-A nursery room is available but we welcome hearing the sound of small children.

-Communion is offered on most first Sundays of the month. All are welcome to receive the elements of the meal. An usher will invite you forward or servers may come to you in the pew.

-We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. If your schedule allows, please join us for a time of fellowship following the service.

Join us as we partner with WU United Methodist Church during **The Season of Lent**. Besides our special worship services, we will share in a weekly Wednesday night Lenten Study. A light meal will be served beginning at 6pm. We look forward to this time of fellowship with our Methodist friends. (Note the host site for each event)

Ash Wednesday worship service – February 18th @ WU UMC - 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday worship service - April 2nd @ Bethel - 7:00 pm

Good Friday worship service - April 3rd @ WU UMC- 7:00 pm

Wednesday Lenten Study

Meal at 6:00 pm (provided by host church)

Study at 6:30 pm (or as close as possible)

Conclude by 7:30 pm

February 25 @ Bethel

March 4 @ WU UMC

March 11 @ Bethel

March 18 @ WU UMC

March 25 @ Bethel

Rev. Lori L. Kleppe, Pastor

208 N. Vine St.

West Union, IA 52175

563-422-3238 (O)

563-380-8187 (C)

bethelwu@gmail.com

or lori.kleppe@gmail.com



**Welcome to worship at
Bethel Presbyterian Church,
where everyone is welcome.**

**5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026**