

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20, 2009 – 11:00 AM

GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Here I am to Worship
Combined Children's Choir

By: Tim Hughes

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Draw near to God, as God comes near to us.

We will say "yes" to God's presence.

Hear the wisdom of the Spirit, and live in peace.

We will say "yes" to the working of the Spirit.

Live with gentleness, full of mercy.

We will say "yes" to one another, living together in grace.

Let God work in us! Let us worship God together.

***Opening Prayer**

In awe and wonder, we meet you here, O God of the prophets and our God. We have struggled with you in lonely places, and have praised you in the company of your people. We have cried out to you, and you have shown your steadfast love. We have resisted you, and you have drawn us back into the circle of Christ's disciples. Pour out your blessing on each one, we pray. Hear our prayers, and renew our spirits. **Amen**

***Hymn of Praise # 220** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Call to Confession

God loves us, but we have not loved God.

God has called us, but we have not listened.

We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns.

We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

May we come to our God of grace, and admit our sin,

so that as God comes to us in mercy,

we may repent, turn to God, and receive forgiveness;

Prayer of Confession (*Spoken in one voice*)

God of all people, we confess that we crave recognition and praise.

We are competitive in our work, at school, at church, even at home.

We strive to achieve so that we may be congratulated.

We want to win. We want to be the greatest.

Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be first must be last and servant of all”

God of radical love, help us to hear our Lord’s voice.

Forgive our selfish desires. Help us to encourage others and give you the glory...

*(silent and personal confession)...*Amen.

***Sung Response # 572**

KYRIE

**Lord have mercy upon us
Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us.**

***Prayer after Confession**

We thank you for guiding us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;

Thank you for hearing our prayers and lifting our burdens!
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, claim the truth that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri # 579**

Glory Be to the Father

H. W. Greatorex

Minute for Mission: Living Water for the World

Laura Dailey

Choral Anthem

Great is Thy Faithfulness

arr. J. Schrader

THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 1

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-16

Gospel Lesson: John 17:20-26

Sermon

“Our Times”

The Reverend Carl Schlich, HR
Interim General Presbyter
Presbytery of East Tennessee

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith **The Apostles Creed** (*Traditional*) Hymnal Page 15

*Hymn of Response # 357 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* MARYTON

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Hear the words of Isaiah 58:10

*“If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desires of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom will be as the noonday.”*

May our offerings this day bring Christ's light and love into this dark world!

Offering *Holy, Holy, Holy* *arr. Purifoy*

*Doxology # 592 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* *OLD HUNDRETH*

***Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

Gracious God, cheerfully and joyously, we lift up these offerings to you. You have poured out your generosity upon us without restraint. You not only have given us life but also have given us Christ our Savior whose way leads to eternal life. Thank you, blessed Lord. Thank you for your love. Thank you for the gift of inner peace. Thank you for the availability of your constant guidance. And thank you for our being able to make a difference in the church and in the world by the offering of our time, talent, gifts and service. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Blessing # 269 *O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand* DUNDEE CM

*Charge

*Benediction

*Response to the Benediction # 540 **God be with you till we meet again;
Loving councils guide, uphold you.
With a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

*Postlude *The Church's One Foundation* By: S. Wesley

***Please stand, if you are able.**

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

~ a community of faith coming together,
for fellowship, study and service . . .
seeking God's peace, justice and love ~

one LORD,
one Faith,
one Baptism....

EPHESIANS 4:5

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Liturgist: Larry Strickling Pianist: Mary Hook
Choir Director: Laura Walker Sound: Greg Murr
Acolytes: Diego Vanegas and Jared McGill

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!
We invite you to participate in signing the Friendship Folders adding your name
and address and if you desire a church newsletter or a pastoral call.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "sins...sin against us"
rather than "debts..." or "trespasses..."

Prayer requests can be noted on the cards provided in the pew racks,
please put those in the offering plate.