

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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



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
and placed in the offering plate.

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
5th Sunday in Lent
April 3, 2022 - 11:00 AM

** Indicates congregation standing if able.
Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew, passing it down the pew then back.

Prelude

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: As people formed by God, we give praise to God;

**P: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,
Christ among us – God is doing a new thing!**

L: As people restored by God, we give praise to God:

**P: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,
Christ among us – God is doing a new thing!**

L: As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God:

**P: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,
Christ among us – God is doing a new thing!**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Creator God, you have formed us as your own,

so whether we are weeping or laughing, dreaming or shouting for joy,
we are always coming home to you.

For all this and more, we thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

*How firm a foun-da-tion, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God’s ex-cel-lent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said—
to you who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?*

*“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strength-en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
up-held by my righ-teous, om-nip-o-tent hand.*

*“When through the deep wa-ters I call thee to go,
the riv-ers of sor-row shall not o-ver-flow;
for I will be near thee, thy trou-bles to bless,
and sanc-ti-fy to thee thy deep-est dis-tress.*

*“When through fi-ery tri-als thy path-way shall lie,
my grace, all suf-fi-cient, shall be thy sup-ply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I on-ly de-sign
thy dross to con-sume, and thy gold to re-fine.*

*“The soul that on Je-sus hath leaned for re-pose,
I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,
I’ll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake.”*

* Call to Confession

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been,
then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give.
God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things.
Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection –
a new and abundant life.

With confidence in God’s generosity,
we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

* Prayer of Confession

**Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are
in our lives, in the church, and in the world.**

**We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ,
for you overturn our notions of power and protocol.**

Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others.

Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us.

Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others.

**Help us bend our lives toward your own life
of self-giving and sacrifice.**

**Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world,
with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new.**

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

* Declaration of Forgiveness

The apostle Paul reminds us that we do not make ourselves righteous.

Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ,
who has made us his own.

Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The old life has passed away – and a new life has begun.

* Sung Response No. 544 “**BLESS THE LORD**”

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in-to life.

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Break open the Scripture through the power of your Spirit, O God.

Let your word, read and proclaimed, pour out
until its fragrance fills this house and our lives.

Then, anointed with your word,

send us out to share the good news we have received.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is with us always. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Psalter	Psalm 126	<i>(A Harvest of Joy)</i>	Pg. 541
Epistle	Philippians 3:4b-14	<i>(Breaking with the Past)</i>	Pg. 187
Gospel	John 12:1-8	<i>(Mary Anoints Jesus)</i>	Pg. 100

Sermon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Hymnal Pg. 37, Sections 1-2

*Jesus portion of The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991,
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

In life and death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The love of God,

And the communion of the Holy Spirit,

we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,

whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ,

Fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor

and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

With the words "We thank you, O God:"
you are invited to respond "You are making all things new."

God our Provider, out of your fullness
you cause life to spring up in barren landscapes;
you have power to control troubled waters, making a path of safety;
you hear our cries and receive our tears;
you restore us to joy and laughter.

You have done great things for us, O God,
and are continually making all things new.

We thank you, O God: **You are making all things new.**

We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ,
whose life and ministry has guided us through this Lenten season
and guides us in every season of life.

In his suffering and death,

he knows full well the troubles and pains we face in this earthly life.
In his resurrection is the hope of our own.
Surrounded by your overflowing love, we are not alone.
We thank you, O God: **You are making all things new.**

With thanksgiving we celebrate your care
and the gift of newness in our lives: for recovery from illness or injury;
for calm after a time of unrest or turmoil;
for a sense of direction after uncertainty;
for new life; for new opportunities.
We thank you, O God: **You are making all things new.**

We pray for people who wait in difficult places.
For those who are suffering and those at life's end;
for people struggling with employment and financial worries;
for those estranged from loved ones;
for those trapped in the grip of addiction;
for people enduring emotional or spiritual turmoil.
Because you are able to make a way in every wilderness,
we thank you, O God: **You are making all things new.**

We pray for the needs of the world.
May peace invade places of war
and justice crowd out oppression and cruelty.
Protect soldiers and citizens alike from harm's way
and make all conflict cease.
Bless leaders of communities, states, and nations,
that they may speak the truth and work with others for the common good.
Pour out healing on the earth itself,
depleted and injured by our careless consumption and intentional greed.
Comfort those devastated by natural disasters;
strengthen those supplying shelter, food, and aid.
Amid the chaos of this world, your Spirit intercedes
with sighs too deep for words.
We thank you, O God: **You are making all things new.**

We pray for the church, the body of Christ in the world,
that we may proclaim your Word boldly.

Lead us, by the power of your Spirit, to witness to your truth,
for we remember and proclaim that death does not have the last word—
in our lives, in the church, or in the world.

We thank you, O God: **You are making all things new!**

The Lord's Prayer (*sins / sin against us*)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;**

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

As it is written in Deuteronomy:

“Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth,
I therefore command you,

‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor. ...’”

Through our tithes and offerings, we can give generously, as Mary did,
and remember the poor.

As we open wide our hands, we attend to Christ himself,

who is present especially among those considered the least and the lost.

Let us offer to God these gifts for ministry in Christ's name.

Offertory

* Hymn No. 606 “**PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**”

*Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;
praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

Abundant God: you cause water to flow in desert places.
You give wine to flow at a wedding feast,
and food to feed five thousand on a grassy mountainside.
Your generosity astounds and humbles us.
We bow before you in gratitude and awe,
asking you to receive what we have brought in response.
May these gifts be a pleasing and fragrant offering,
for the sake of the world you came to save.
We pray in your holy name. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 703 **“JESUS, THY BOUNDLESS LOVE TO ME”**

St. Catherine

*Je-sus, thy bound-less love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue de-clare;
O knit my thank-ful heart to thee,
and reign with-out a ri-val there!
Thine whol-ly, thine a-lone, I'd live;
my-self to thee en-tire-ly give.*

*O grant that noth-ing in my soul
may dwell, but thy pure love a-lone;
O may thy love pos-sess me whole,
my joy, my trea-sure, and my crown!
All cold-ness from my heart re-move;
may ev-ery act, word, thought be love.*

*O Love, how gra-cious is thy way!
All fear be-fore thy pres-ence flies;
care, an-guish, sor-row melt a-way
where-e'er thy heal-ing beams a-rise.*

O Je-sus, noth-ing may I see, noth-ing de-sire, or seek, but thee.

* Charge

As the season of Lent turns toward Palm Sunday
and the events of Holy Week,
go forth remembering both Mary's faithfulness and Judas' betrayal
as you consider your own life of discipleship.

* Blessing

May God guide you through the desert places,
may Christ lead you into knowing him more deeply,
and the Holy Spirit fill you with faith overflowing:
that as you share in Christ's suffering,
you will also trust the power of his resurrection.

* Sung Response No. 547 **"GO MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING"**

(verse 3)

Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

Here my Spir-it's power filled you; here my ten-der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Bless the Lord”

Text: Taizé Community, 1984

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Text & Music © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Welsh melody

Text © Concordia Publishing House

Public Domain

“How Firm a Foundation”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed

with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-718125

All Rights Reserved