

**Be strong  
in the Lord  
and in the strength  
of his power.**

*Ephesians 6:10, NRSV*



**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.)  
21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Times  
August 22, 2021 - 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: Watch what God does: mostly God loves us.

**P: We would learn a life of such love so we might do as God does.**

L: Watch how Christ loves us: not with caution, but with extravagance.

**P: We would practice such lavish love, not noticing what it costs us.**

L: Watch how the Spirit loves us: moving in us, breathing love into us.

**P: We would live such love for others, keeping company with God.**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

We gather in this place, with these people, in these moments,  
Holy One because we hope our fumbling, faltering lives  
might be transfigured into good news for us and others. Amen.

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe-ly live,  
a place where saints and chil-dren tell how hearts learn to for-give.  
Built of hopes and dreams and vi-sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end di-vi-sions: all are wel-come;  
all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.*

*Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's chil-dren dare to seek to dream God's reign a-new.  
Here the cross shall stand as wit-ness and as sym-bol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of J-esus: all are wel-come;  
all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found in wa-ter, wine and wheat:  
a ban-quet hall on ho-ly ground, where peace and jus-tice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Je-sus, is re-vealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel-come;  
all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach be-yond the wood and stone  
to heal and strength-en, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the out-cast and the strang-er bear the im-age of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are wel-come;  
all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi-sions heard  
and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed as words with-in the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house pro-claim from floor to raf-ter: all are wel-come;  
all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.*

\* Call to Confession

It's this simple – God loves us.

But our inactions grieve God, our sins break God's heart.

In Christ, God forgives us through and through.

Let us confess our failures and our faithlessness,  
trusting in God's promise to make us new.

\* Prayer of Confession

**We break your heart, God of all the world.**

**Blessed by you with every gift, we too often hold back from others.**

**Seeking to be good and proper Christians,**

**we too often overlook you in the company of the poor,  
the oppressed, those without a voice.**

**Forgive us for the pain we cause you and other people,  
Grieving God.**

**Help us to make a clean break with those habits  
which keep us from wholeness.**

**Open us to the movement of your Spirit within us.**

**Feed us with your love,**

**so we might have the love and passion to feed the world.**

**This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

\* Sung Response No. 551 “**LORD, HAVE MERCY**”

LAND OF REST

*Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;*

*Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.*

*Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;*

*Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.*

\* Declaration of Forgiveness

It is really that simple – God loves us.

Through the Holy Spirit, God works in us, transfiguring our old ways,  
breathing life and love into us.

We are blessed to receive God's grace, so we can offer it to others.

We are caressed in God's gentleness, so we can hold the broken.  
Let us be quick to forgive, even as God has forgiven us.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

\* Sung Response 591 **“HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJA”**

*Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal-le-lu-ja!*  
*Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal-le-lu-ja!*  
*Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal-le-lu-ja!*  
*Hal-le-lu-ya! Hal-le-lu-ya!*

## THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Gracious God, may your messages and preaching come to us  
through your Holy Spirit's power

so that our faith might rest on your power and presence.

Help us to always depend upon Your Spirit,

let us hear your words. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Wisdom Psalm 84 *(The Joy of Worship in the Temple)* Pg. 513

Gospel John 6:63-69 *(The Words of Eternal Life)* Pg. 93

Epistle Ephesians 6:10-20 *(The Whole Armor of God)* Pg. 184

Sermon

“Get Ready!”

The Reverend Susan Reisinger

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\* Affirmation of Faith

From the Uniting Church of Canada

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*sin / 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.**

## Invitation to the Offering

Giving is not a casual act.

Let us give as people whose work  
is inextricably linked to God's great works  
of creation, redemption and empowerment.

## Offertory

### \* Prayer of Dedication

May we imitate your generosity, gracious God,  
as we offer these gifts to you.

May we model your justice,  
as we seek to bring hope to the broken all around us.

May we share the gift of your love with all who are alone and hurting,  
and simply looking for grace in their lives.

This we pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE SENDING FORTH

### \* Hymn No. 542 "GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN"

*God be with you till we meet a-gain;  
lov-ing coun-sels guide, up-hold you,  
with a shep-herd's care en-fold you:  
God be with you till we meet a-gain.*

*God be with you till we meet a-gain;  
un-seen wings pro-TECT-ing hide you,  
dai-ly man-na still pro-VIDE you:  
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet a-gain;  
when life's per-ils thick con-found you,  
put un-fail-ing arms a-round you:  
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet a-gain;  
keep love's ban-ner float-ing o'er you;  
smite death's threat'ening wave be-fore you:  
God be with you till we meet again.*

\* Benediction

Go out, and live out the mystery of the gospel.  
Keep alert and pray at all times.  
Draw strength from God's power  
so you can stand firm against all that would corrupt you.

And may God arm you with truth and righteousness;  
may Christ Jesus give you words of Spirit and life;  
and may the Holy Spirit draw you near to God's presence  
and bless you with honor and grace.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

\* Sung Response No. 432      "SONG OF HOPE"

ARGENTINA

*May the God of hope go with us ev-ery day,  
Fill-ing all our lives with love and joy and peace.*

*May the God of jus-tice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to ev-ery land and race.*

*Pray-ing, let us work for peace, Sing-ing, share our joy with all,  
Work-ing for a world that's new, Faith-ful when we hear Christ's call.*

\* Postlude



Guest Minister: The Reverend Susan Reisinger

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Mary Hook    Sound: Adam Badger    Video: Jake Horton

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Let Us Build a House”

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, 1994

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“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: Swee Hong Lim, 1990

Music © 1990 Swee Hong Lim

(admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

Text: Ref., trad. liturgical text; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990

Music: Caribbean melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1990; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990

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PUBLIC DOMAIN

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

“Song of Hope”