



The law
of the Lord
is perfect ...
making wise
the simple ...

PSALM 19:7, 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.)
6th Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 2023 - 11:00 AM**

** Indicates congregation standing if able. Parents with infants may remain seated.
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: Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord,

P: who seek God with their whole hearts.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

God of blessing, you call us to be one with you and your creation
in love, faithfulness, and truth.

Help us to carry out the vows we make:

to adore you with our whole heart,

to live in mutual support of our another,

and to love as if your reign has fully come. Amen.

* Hymn No. 37

“Let All Things Now Living”

ASH GROVE

*Let all things now liv-ing a song of thanks-giv-ing
to God our Cre-a-tor tri-um-phant-ly raise;
who fash-ioned and made us, pro-tect-ed and stayed us,
by guid-ing us on to the end of our days.
God's ban-ners are o'er us; pure light goes be-fore us,*

*a pil-lar of fire shin-ing forth in the night:
till shad-ows have van-ish-ed, all fear-ful-ness ban-ish-ed,
as for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light.*

*By law God en-forc-es, the stars in their cours-es,
the sun in its or-bit o-be-dient-ly shine;
the hills and the moun-tains, the riv-ers and foun-tains,
the depths of the o-cean pro-claim God di-vine.
We too should be voic-ing our love and re-joic-ing;
with glad ad-o-ra-tion a song let us raise
till all things now liv-ing u-nite in thanks-giv-ing:
to God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise!*

* Call to Confession

Our God is a loving God.

Therefore, let us confess our sins that we may choose life and live.

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we bow down before other gods;
we have turned our hearts away from you.**

**Our worship of work and devotion to consumerism
disorders our love of you and each other.**

**Forgive us, God, and mend what is broken,
that we may be one with you. Amen.**

* Sung Response No. 576 “**LORD, HAVE MERCY**”

SINGAPURA

Lord, have mer-cy.

Christ, have mer-cy.

Lord, have mer-cy on us.

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, by the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Sing praises with an upright heart as we learn the ways of God.

* Sung Response No. 585

“GLORY TO GOD” (*Verse 1*)

MACHU-PICHU

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!

To God be glo-ry for-ev-er!

Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men!

Al-le-lu-ia, A-men!

THE WORD

Children’s Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, anoint us with your Holy Spirit,
as we hear your Word this day.

Fill us with your truth that we may walk in the ways of God
and to the glory of your realm. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

History	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (<i>God’s Fidelity Assured</i>)	Pg. 179
Wisdom	Psalms 19:7-14 (<i>God’s Glory in Creation and the Law</i>)	Pg. 472
Gospel	Matthew 5:21-37 (<i>Concerning Anger</i>)	Pg. 4

Sermon “You have heard it said ... but I say to you”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.08

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 judgement
under which everyone stands convicted.
God raised him from the dead, vindicated him as Messiah and Lord.
The victim of sin became victor,
and won the victory over sin and death for all.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God of grace and steadfast love,
we thank you for our life and that we share it in community.
We thank you for calling us to ministries of hope and compassion.
We pray for your grace to do all that you ask of us:
to choose life, to love you and our neighbors without reserve,
not halfheartedly but with our whole selves.

Holy God, we bring before you the cares, the concerns
and the joys that occupy us.

We remember before you those who are at odds with one another:
in families, in neighborhoods or offices, in communities
and in the church and across political aisles and deep-seated divisions.

We pray for nations in the midst of internal and external conflicts
and all those who suffer because of the conflict and violence and terror.

We remember before you today those who have physical needs:
people who fear for their safety and well-being,
people who are hungry or thirsty,
people who are exhausted by the demands of work or caregiving,
people who are sick or who will undergo surgery
and people who live with chronic pain.

Bring relief and rest, we pray.

We remember those weighed down with needs of heart and soul:
a worry that keeps us awake at night,
grief that accompanies us everywhere we go;

depression that clouds us or an addiction that grips us and those we love.
Lift all of these heavy burdens
with the light and peace of your presence we pray.

Sustain us over the long journey toward health and wholeness
and give us trust in you, ourselves, and those who love us.

We remember before you not only our cares,
but also our joys, all the things that are life-giving:
a birthday celebrated, an anniversary enjoyed, a baby born, a new job,
a new relationship, and a new day of your mercies.

We give thanks that with you there is always a new beginning,
a way where there is no way, hope beyond hope, and life beyond death.
Give us the courage to trust you as we choose your life-giving path,
praying as you teach us, “Our Father...”

The Lord’s Prayer (*sin / sin against us*)

Hymnal pg. 35

**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

God’s Word finds fertile ground each time we choose life,
each time we share the gifts of God’s grace and love.
Let us gather our gifts and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Offertory

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks,
so that together we may plant and water the seeds of your new world.
May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate your love,
knowing that in all we accomplish,
it is you who gives the growth. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 804

“REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART!”

MARION

*Re-joyce, ye pure in heart!
Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing!
Your fes-tal ban-ner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.*

Re-joyce! Rejoyce! Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing!

*With voice as full and strong
as o-cean's surg-ing praise,
send forth the stur-dy hymns of old,
the psalms of an-cient days.*

Re-joyce! Rejoyce! Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing!

*Yes, on through life's long path,
still chant-ing as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in glad-ness and in woe:*

Re-joyce! Rejoyce! Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing!

*At last the march shall end;
the wea-ried ones shall rest;
the pil-grims find their home at last,
Je-ru-sa-lem the blest.*

Re-joyce! Rejoyce! Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing!

Then on, ye pure in heart!

Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing!

*Your fes-tal ban-ner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.*

Re-joyce! Rejoyce! Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing!

* Benediction

Love the Lord, choose the good,
hold fast to God, so that you may flourish.

May the wisdom of God, the love of Christ,
and the peace of the Spirit
shine brightly in your lives this day and always.

* Sung Response No. 541 “**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-herds care en-fold you:
God be with you till we meet a-gain.*

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Lord, Have Mercy”

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“Let All Things Now Living”

“Glory to God”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

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