



First Sunday in Lent

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.)
First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 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: Listen!

P: There is hope to be found here.

L: Listen!

P: God calls you by name here.

L: Listen!

P: There is love that abides here.

L: This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

P: God is speaking.

L: Let us worship.

P: Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Wild God of wilderness, as we devote these forty days to you,
shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord,
so that we may be ready, by your grace,
to confront the power of death
with the promise of eternal life. Amen.

* Hymn No. 43 “YOU WHO DWELL IN THE SHELTER OF THE LORD”

*You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord,
who a-bide in his shad-ow for life,
say to the Lord, "My ref-uge, my rock in whom I trust!"*

Refrain

*And he will raise you up on ea-gles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you,
and fam-ine will bring you no fear:
un-der his wings, your ref-uge, his faith-ful-ness your shield.*

(Refrain)

*You need not fear the ter-ror of the night,
nor the ar-row that flies by day;
though thou-sands fall a-bout you, near you it shall not come.*

(Refrain)

*For to his an-gels he's giv-en a com-mand
to guard you in all of your ways;
up-on their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot a-gainst a stone.*

Refrain

*And he will raise you up on ea-gles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

* Call to Confession

Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you.

If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you.

If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.

In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God
that we do not have it all figured out.

And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God's grace.

So let us pray together,

using the prayer of confession printed in your bulletin

Let us pray:

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station—
something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient.**

Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications.

In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate

toward the voices that think like us—

easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice.

Forgive us for failing to listen.

Forgive us for getting caught in distractions.

Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.

Drain the distractions from our minds

and help us turn once again toward you.

With earnest hearts we pray. 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

Friends, even when we tune God out,
even when we prioritize other voices,
even when we do all the talking and fail to listen,
we are still held by God.

Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

* 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

Let us pray:

Holy God, Listening is always easier said than done.

We shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds,

but the list of distractions is long. We need your help to listen.

So today we ask that you would marinate us in your Word.

Dust the cobwebs from our ears. Stir our souls awake.

Crack open our hearts to make room for you.

We want to hear you, really hear you, so speak to us now.

With hope we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Torah Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (*... Account of the Creation*) Pg. 2

Wisdom Psalm 32 (*The Joy of Forgiveness*) Pg. 479

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11 (*The Temptation of Jesus*) Pg. 3

Sermon: “Who Will You Listen To?”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

In a world full of noise, we believe that God is speaking.

In a world full of chaos, we believe that God is singing.

In a world full of temptation, we believe that God is healing.

Church, who will you listen to?

We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.

Church, what will you listen for?

**We will listen for water in the desert, for the wind of the Spirit,
for the laughter of children, for the sound of open doors,
and for God's voice, who calls us beloved. Amen**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

With all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord,
who is our hiding place in times of trouble,
who surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance.

We pray for all who are hungry—
whether hungry for power and glory or hungry for a simple meal.
Show the mighty that you alone can satisfy their deepest need,
and feed the poor from the abundance of your good creation.

We pray for the church in times of trial—
whether tested by tempestuous change
or tempted by safety of the status quo.
Give us peace when anger and fear threaten to divide us,
and challenge us when we are too comfortable in this world.

We pray for leaders in high places—
whether determined to help those who suffer
or distant from the cries of the oppressed.
Open their eyes to see your saving power at work,
and open their ears to hear your prophets' calls for justice.

Lord God, instruct us in the way we should go
and let your steadfast love surround us always;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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

As God so freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ,
let us respond with gratitude, offering our lives to God.

Offertory

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

* Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Let us pray:

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the free and abundant gift of grace you have given us in Jesus Christ.

Let the simple gifts of our lives
be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Cathy:

These new members, Bob and Suzanne Lukat and Carol Whitnall, have been received by the session into the membership of the church by promise of letters from Morrow Presbyterian Church in Morrow, GA and First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, TN. They are here to declare their faith and to be joined with us in the service of Jesus Christ.

Nancy: (Answers in parenthesis):

1. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you profess your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? (*I do*)
2. Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? (*I will*)
3. Do you declare your intention to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church? (*I do*)
4. Do you wish to unite in membership with Bethel Presbyterian Church? (*I do*)

Nancy:

Will we, the members of this congregation, surround and support Carol, Bob, and Suzanne with our love and care, and will we share with them the good news of the gospel as we grow together to find God's will for our lives? If that is your intention, please respond by saying, "We will."

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 840

“WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER”
(IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL)

*When peace like a riv-er at-tend-eth my way,
when sor-rows like sea bil-lows roll,
what-ev-er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*It is well with my soul;
it is well; it is well with my soul.*

*Though Sa-tan should buf-fet, though tri-als should come,
let this blest as-sur-ance con-trol,
that Christ hath re-gard-ed my help-less es-tate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.*

*It is well with my soul;
it is well; it is well with my soul.*

*He lives: O the bliss os this glo-ri-ous thought.
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*It is well with my soul;
it is well; it is well with my soul.*

*Lord, has-ten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trum-pet shall resound and the Lord shall de-scend;
e-ven so, it is well with my soul.*

It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.

* Benediction

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,
go now in peace. Amen

* 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

“You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagle’s Wings)”

Text: Michael Joncas, 1978, alt.

Music: Michael Joncas 1978

Text & Music © 1979 Jan Michael Joncas (Published by OCP)

“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)

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“Glory to God”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

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