



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.)
Baptism of the Lord
January 15, 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: In the beginning, at creation,
the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

P: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.

L: God caused the waters to part
so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

P: God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.

L: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

**P: Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman,
the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**

L: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

**P: God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family.
Praise be!**

Prayer of Invocation

God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong!
Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters.
You sit enthroned above the floods of life.

As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism,
may we also hear you calling us your beloved,
through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother. Amen.

Hymn No. 475

“COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”

NETTLETON

*Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing,
call for songs of loud-est praise.
Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net,
sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
praise the mount! I'm fixed up-on it,
mount of God's un-changing love!*

*Here I raise my Eb-e-ne-zer;
hith-er by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure,
safe-ly to ar-rive at home.*

*Je-sus sought me when a strang-er,
won-dering from the fold of God;
he, to res-cue me from dan-ger,
in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debt-or
dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fet-ter,
bind my wan-dering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.*

* Call to Confession

Those who know God and love God are called to righteousness.

We are called, through God, to open the eyes of the blind
and establish justice on earth.

Yet, we turn time and time again away from this calling.

Let us confess our sins to God, our loving and merciful redeemer.

* Prayer of Confession

**Creator God, in our baptism, you marked us with your love,
inviting us into covenant with you.**

As we grow older, you reveal more and more of yourself to us.

We see and experience the brokenness of the world;

we know that we are called to embody your love.

But the task sometimes feels too big.

It's easier to ignore the pain of others.

It's easier to choose blindness.

Forgive us for forgetting our baptism,

for forgetting that our lives are meant for something bigger. Amen.

* Sung Response No 575 “**LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US**”

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us;

Christ, have mer-cy up-on us;

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

* Declaration of Forgiveness

L: Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us.

God still calls us by name. God still places God's Spirit upon us.

P: **We are known and loved and forgiven. Amen.**

* Sung Response

“GLORY BE TO THE FATHER”

Avery & Marsh, 1967

*Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and the Son, and the Ho-ly Ghost;
As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be,
world with-out end. A-men. As it was in the be-gin-ning,
is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.
A-men. A-men. A-men. A-men.
A-men. A-men. A-men.*

THE WORD

Children’s Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Still-speaking God, as these words from Scripture are read,
may it be to us as if the heavens are opening,
and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove,
revealing your love for us as your daughters and sons. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Prophet	Isaiah 42:1-9	<i>(The Servant, a Light to the Nations)</i>	Pg. 630
Wisdom	Psalm 29	<i>(The Voice of God in a Great Storm)</i>	Pg. 477
Gospel	Matthew 3:13-17	<i>(The Baptism of Jesus)</i>	Pg. 3

Sermon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery
beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ
by showing power in the form of a servant,**

**wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful men and women.
The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator
who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

Call to Offering

God gives us not only genesis life
but the new life born of repentance, forgiveness, and resurrection.
Therefore, with generous hearts,
let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us
in our baptismal covenant with God and each other.

Offertory

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:
Great, saving God, you have gathered us into one baptism,
regardless of our backgrounds and conditions.
Therefore we praise you with our tithes and offerings.
May they join with others to become a mighty river,
bringing your peace and healing to the world. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 744

“ARISE YOUR LIGHT IS COME”

FESTAL SONG

*A-rise, your light is come!
The Spir-it's call o-bey;
show forth the glo-ry of your God,
which shines on you to-day.*

*A-rise, your light is come!
Fling wide the pris-on door;*

*pro-claim the cap-tives' lib-er-ty,
good ti-dings to the poor.*

*A-rise, your light is come!
All you in sor-row born,
bind up the bro-ken-heart-ed ones
and com-fort those who mourn.*

*A-rise, your light is come!
The moun-tains burst in song!
Rise up like ea-gles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.*

* Benediction

God shows no partiality between people
according to class, color, or country
but accepts people of all backgrounds
who love God and do what is right.
Go in peace and do likewise.

May the God who called Jesus “beloved”
speak blessing to you, beloved sons and daughters,
and empower you to bring that good news to others
who still need to hear it.

* Benediction Response No. 546

SICILIAN MARINERS

“LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING”

(Verse 1)

*Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, Traveling through this wilderness.*

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Lord, Have Mercy upon Us”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: J. Christopher Pardini, 2005

Music © 2011 Birnamwood Publications (a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.)

“Glory Be to the Father”

Music © 1967 by Hope Publishing Company

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 2004

Music: Caribbean folk melody; arr. Jorge Lockward, 2001

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Arr. © 2001 Jorge Lockward

Public Domain

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

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