



Faith is the assurance
of things hoped for,
the conviction
of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, 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.)
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
January 16, 2022 - 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: We are people who have been called to follow where God leads us.

**P: By faith we can obey,
even when asked to walk into an unknown future.**

L: We are people who have been challenged to tell God's story to others.

P: By faith we have the ability to share the good news.

L: We are God's children who are invited to feast at the Table of grace.

P: By faith we will embrace our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Prayer of Invocation

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise;
we hear your call to turn toward you.

Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom

and our hearts with your peace,

that our worship together may open us

to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. Amen.

*What is this place, where we are meet-ing?
On-ly a house, the earth its floor.
Walls and a roof, shel-ter-ing peo-ple,
win-dows for light, an o-pen door.
Yet it be-comes a bod-y that lives when we are gath-ered here,
and know our God is near.*

*Words from a-far, stars that are fall-ing.
Sparks that are sown in us like seed:
names for our God, dreams, signs, and won-ders
sent from the past are what we need.
We in this place re-mem-ber and speak a-gain what we have heard:
God's free re-deem-ing word.*

*And we ac-cept bread at his ta-ble,
bro-ken and shared, a liv-ing sign.
Here in this world, dy-ing and liv-ing,
we are each oth-er's bread and wine.
This is the place where we can re-ceive what we need to in-crease:
God's jus-tice and God's peace.*

* Call to Confession

We would like to keep our sins hidden and our failures a secret.
But God would not have us keep silent,
but speak our confessions out loud,
so we may be blessed with God's mercy and grace.
I invite you to pray with me, saying,

* Prayer of Confession

You have a vision of all people as your beloved children, Imaginative God, but we see folks whose language, dress, and skin make them different. You have a vision of a universe filled with goodness and beauty, and we damage it with litter, with violence, with poor choices. You have a vision of a Table where we can feast on your grace and hope, but we line up at the fast food counters of sin and greed.

Forgive us as we confess that we are not "insiders" but immigrants searching for our true home. By faith, may we be willing to be as gracious, as compassionate, and as hopeful as you are. Amen.

* Declaration of Forgiveness

L: There is nothing to fear.

God's hope is more tenacious than our despair;

God's joy is more resilient than our grief;

God's love is more compelling than our hate.

P: By grace, we are gathered to God.

By faith, we rest in God's promises of forgiveness and restoration.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Sung Response No. 581 “**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER**”

GLORIA PATRI

***Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ever shall be,
world with-out end. Amen, amen.***

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

God of extravagant grace, may your Spirit refresh our hearts
through the reading of the scriptures
that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ
and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|--|---------|
| Torah | Genesis 15:1-6 | <i>(God's Covenant with Abram)</i> | Pg. 11 |
| Wisdom | Psalm 33:1-12 | <i>(The Greatness and Goodness of God)</i> | Pg. 480 |
| Epistle | Hebrews 11:1-11 | <i>(The Meaning of Faith)</i> | Pg. 211 |

Sermon: "Seeking a Homeland"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

The United 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

**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

Give us open hearts that we may give not only to friends and family,
but to those in need as well.

Let us bring our offerings to God.

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

It is by faith that you bless us, hopeful God.

So, it is by faith that we offer back to you

a portion of what we have and who we are,

trusting that you will take these gifts

and use them in the work of that kingdom of justice and hope,

of grace and wonder, which is yours.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 684

“FAITH BEGINS BY LETTING GO”

LUX PRIMA

*Faith be-gins by let-ting go,
giv-ing up what had seemed sure,
tak-ing risks and press-ing on,
though the way feels less se-cure:
pil-grim-age both right and odd,
trust-ing all our life to God.*

*Faith en-dures by hold-ing on,
keep-ing mem-ory's roots a-live
so that hope may bear its fruit;
prom-ise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through mer-it we pos-sess
but by God's great faith-ful-ness.*

*Faith ma-tures by reach-ing out,
stretch-ing minds, en-larg-ing hearts,
shar-ing strug-gles, liv-ing prayer,
bind-ing up the bro-ken parts;
till we find the com-mon-place
ripe with wit-ness to God's grace.*

* Benediction

* Sung Response No. 744 **“ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME!”**

*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.*

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“What Is This Place”

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, 1968; trans. David Smith, 1970

Music: Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clanck, 1626;

harm. Bernard Huijbers, 1968

Text and Music Harm. © 1967 Gooi En Sticht, Bv, Baarn, The Netherlands
(admin. OCP for English-language countries)

“Faith Begins by Letting Go”

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1995

Music: Charles F. Gounod, 1872

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Text: Ruth Duck, 1974

Music: William H. Walter, 1894

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

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“Glory Be to the Father”

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

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