



*...when the  
fullness  
of time  
had come,  
God sent  
his Son,  
born of  
a woman...*

Galatians 4:4, 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.)  
1st Sunday after Christmas  
January 1, 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: We recount the gracious deeds of God,  
all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

**P: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.**

L: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

**P: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.**

L: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

**P: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Spirit of God, as we celebrate a birth,

be born in us each day;

as we sing God's praises,

whisper the good news to our ears;

as we seek to be faithful to our calling,

lead us into the kingdom waiting for us.

*At the name of Je-sus ev-ery knee shall bow,  
ev-ery tongue con-fess him King of glo-ry now;  
'tis the Fa-ther's plea-sure we should call him Lord,  
who from the be-gin-ning was the might-y Word.*

*Hum-bled for a sea-son to re-ceive a name  
from the lips of sin-ners un-to whom he came,  
faith-ful-ly he bore it spot-less to the last,  
brought it back vic-to-rious, when from death he passed;*

*Bore it up tri-um-phant, with its hu-man light,  
through all ranks of crea-tures, to the cen-tral height,  
to the throne of God-head, to the Fa-ther's breast,  
filled it with the glo-ry of that per-fect rest.*

*Chris-tians, this Lord Je-sus shall re-turn a-gain,  
with his Fa-ther's glo-ry o’  
for all wreaths of em-pire meet up-on his brow,  
and our hearts con-fess him King of glo-ry now.*

\* Call to Confession

A new year seems to offer us a new start.  
But only God can forgive and make us new.  
Trusting in the mercy of God, and the power of love,  
let us confess our sins.

\* Prayer of Confession

God of all seasons, we confess that we fail to change our ways.  
As we make resolutions that are often focused on ourselves,  
we fail to transform into the people you need us to be:  
people who strive for justice over personal gain,  
compassion and forgiveness over vindication and self-satisfaction.

As we walk into this near year,  
open our hearts to your transformation.  
Grant us the courage  
to live into your ways of justice and righteousness.  
Guide us into your ways of new life, now and in all times.  
In the name of Christ, who makes all things new, we pray. 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

Hear the good news. the time is now; the place is here:

God has redeemed us from sin;

God has claimed us as the children of Hope.

We praise God for forgiveness and new beginnings. Thanks be to God!

\* 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

Choral Anthem                    “IN REMEMBRANCE”

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

Epistle	Galatians 4:4-7	<i>(The Purpose of the Law)</i>	Pg. 178
Wisdom	Psalms 8	<i>(Divine Majesty and Human Dignity)</i>	Pg. 466
Prophet	Isaiah 63:7-9	<i>(God's Mercy Remembered)</i>	Pg. 652

Sermon                                “Love Carries Us”  
The Reverend Susan Reisinger

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\* Affirmation of Faith    Affirmation for the New Year  
*By Christine Sine, on her Godspace website*

**God is the eternal rock  
From year's beginning to its end  
God is faithful  
In each day God is present  
In each action God comes close  
Through all eternity  
God is trustworthy  
Yesterday, today and forever  
Sustaining, enlivening, making all things new  
God is the eternal rock**

\* Hymn No. 436      “**GOD OF COMPASSION, IN MERCY BEFRIEND US**”

*God of com-pas-sion, in mer-cy be-friend us,  
giv-er of grace for our needs all-a-vail-ing.  
Wis-dom and strength for each day ev-er send us,  
pa-tience un-tir-ing and cour-age un-fail-ing.*

*Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,  
stilled our rude hearts with your word of con-sol-ing.  
Wrap now your peace, like a man-tle, a-round us,  
guard-ing our thoughts and our pas-sions con-trol-ling.*

*How shall we stray, with your hand to di-rect us,  
you who the stars in their cours-es are guid-ing?  
What shall we fear, with your power to pro-tect us,  
we who walk forth in your great-ness con-fid-ing?*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God of steadfast love, we thank you in this joyful Christmastide  
for all the blessings we enjoy:  
the shelter of home and the comfort of family and friends;  
the company of the faithful with whom we celebrate Christ’s coming;  
and for your love, which shines as a light in the darkness.  
For these and many other blessings besides,  
we offer our thanks and praise . . .

God of mercy, in this holy season,  
there are people in need of your tender mercies:  
we pray for those who are ill and for those who are recovering;  
for those whose sadness is made heavier  
by memories of Christmases past or by some present pain.  
We pray for those who do not have enough:  
enough food, enough money, enough companionship, enough hope.

Because there is not yet peace on earth,  
we pray for those in harm's way.  
Protect them from war, violence, and cruel oppression.  
For these and many other needs, we offer our intercessions . . .

God of hope,  
through long ages, you have given to your people dreams  
and a vision of the time when there will be no more war,  
no more pain or sorrow, no more death.

We pray this day for the time to be fulfilled,  
when we will be reconciled to one another,  
to all creation, to you.

Fill us with hope as we wait upon your coming realm.

Give us the will to work for justice and peace  
and the courage to follow you into every place.

We thank you for dreamers and visionaries  
who respond with imagination and joy  
to what you are doing in the church and in the world,  
as we remember them before you . . .

As a new year dawns, we know that all our times are in your hand.

We entrust ourselves and those we love to your care.

In Christ's name we pray. 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.**

Invitation to the 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 heav-en-ly host;  
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

\* Prayer of Dedication

By these gifts, Gracious God,  
may those who have so little be clothed with your abundant grace;  
may the hungry be fed with food that strengthens them  
and hope which gives them new life;  
may all who are searching find that they are your beloved children.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

\* Hymn No. 686 **“GOD OF OUR LIFE”**

*God of our life, through all the cir-cling years,  
we trust in thee.  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,  
thy hand we see.  
With each new day, when mor-ning lifts the veil,  
we own thy mer-cies, Lord, which nev-er fail.*

*God of the past, our times are in thy hand.  
With us a-bide.  
Lead us by faith, to hope's true prom-ised land.  
Be thou our guide.*



*With thee to bless, the dark-ness shines as light,  
and faith's fair vi-sion chang-es in-to sight.*

*God of the com-ing years, through paths un-known  
we fol-low thee.*

*When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a-lone.  
Our ref-uge be.*

*Be thou for us in life our dai-ly bread,  
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.*

\* 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

Guest Minister: The Reverend Susan Reisinger

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Music Director: Judy Yeaworth

Video: Jake Horton

Liturgist: Brad Parish

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“At the Name of Jesus”

Text: Caroline Maria Noel, 1870, alt.

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925

Music © 1925 Oxford University Press

“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

“God of Our Life”

Text: Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916, alt.

Music: Charles Henry Purday, 1860; harm. John Weaver, 1986

Text © 1928 F. M. Braselman, ren. 1956 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education

(admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Music Harm. © 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

“God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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