

*“I have come
seeking fruit
on this fig tree ...”*

Luke 13:7, ESV



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.)
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 23, 2022 - 11:00 AM**

** Indicates congregation standing if able.
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: Incline your ear and come to me, God says to us.

Listen, so that you may live.

God's covenant is everlasting.

It is with us from generation to generation.

P: God's love is steadfast and true.

L: We come together today in God's presence
to call on the Holy One and draw near.

P: Let us offer our worship and praise.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you sent Jesus to proclaim your kingdom
and to teach with authority.

Anoint us with your Spirit, that we, too,
may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted,
and proclaim liberty to the captive;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer-cy,
like the wide-ness of the sea.
There’s a kind-ness in God’s jus-tice,
which is more than lib-er-ty.
There is no place where earth’s sor-rows
are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth’s fail-ings
have such kind-ly judg-ment given.*

*For the love of God is broad-er
than the mea-sures of the mind.
And the heart of the E-ter-nal
is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
If our love were but more faith-ful,
we would glad-ly trust God’s Word,
and our lives re-flect thanks-giv-ing
for the good-ness of our Lord.*

* Call to Confession

In contrast to God’s clear word,
our faults and failings may remain hidden from others
and even from ourselves.

Confession before God can clear our eyes and cleanse our hearts,
for God’s mercy is as wide as the firmament of heaven.

* Prayer of Confession

**God of our Restoration, whenever we come home to you,
we realize how far we have strayed and how much we have forgotten
of your law and your love.**

**We have not loved you with our whole hearts
or loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Forgive us, heal us, and restore us to our relationship with you;
through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust. Amen.**

* Declaration of Forgiveness

God's word does not come to condemn us, but to make us wise,
reviving our souls and rejoicing our hearts.

God's Word has been fulfilled among us in Jesus Christ,
who sets us free to live in accord with God's own jubilee.

* 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

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Just as we see your wisdom and glory in nature around us, God,
may we hear your Word for us in the words of these readings,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may be drawn closer to you.

Through your great preacher, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Gospel Luke 13:1-9 (*Repent or Perish*)

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Sermon: “Three Feet”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

**This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,**

**and that he appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God of prophets and apostles,
you call us to restore that which is broken
and to proclaim your vision of a world made new.
Create in us new hearts and strong voices as we pray.

We pray for those who have been anointed or chosen as leaders of people,
that they may attend to the voices of their people and be guided by you.

We pray for pastors and teachers of the church,
that they may faithfully interpret your Word for others.

We pray for those who are poor and in need of assistance,
and for ourselves, that we may open our hearts to their cries for help.

We pray for those who are the captives of war and the victims of violence;
may we bring them good news both in word and deed.

We pray for those with physical challenges and spiritual struggles;
make us agents of healing and hope.

We pray for those who are oppressed by powers beyond their control;
give us courage to work to set them free.

God of the Jubilee, make us the body of the risen Christ,
united, in all our diversity.

Animate us by your Holy Spirit that together
we may work toward your coming kingdom.

In Jesus' name we pray as he taught us ...

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

Let us give generously from that which has been given to us,
that through our offerings the good news of Jesus Christ may be fulfilled.

Offertory

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

*“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here be-low;
praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:
God of life and of new life, bless these gifts that we have given
that they may further your reign in this world. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 702

“CHRIST BE BESIDE ME”

BUNESSAN

*Christ be be-side me; Christ be be-fore me;
Christ be be-hind me, King of my heart.
Christ be with-in me; Christ be be-low me;
Christ be a-bove me, ne-ver to part.*

*Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all a-round me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleep-ing, Christ in my sit-ting,
Christ in my ris-ing, Light of my life.*

*Christ be in all hearts think-ing a-bout me;
Christ be on all tongues tell-ing of me.
Christ be the vi-sion in eyes that see me;
in ears that hear me Christ ev-er be.*

* Charge and 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

“Christ Be Beside Me”

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1969

Music: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Text: Ruth Duck, 1974

Music: William H. Walter, 1894

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“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

“Glory Be to the Father”

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

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