



“And you,
Bethlehem,
... from you shall come
a ruler who is to shepherd
my people Israel.”

Matthew 2:6, 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.)
Epiphany Sunday / Installation of Elders
January 8, 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: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

P: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

L: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

P: Proclaim God's praise among the nations.

Prayer of Invocation

God, you placed a star in the sky

to draw wise folk to the place of Christ's nativity.

There you revealed the mystery of your eternal purpose for all humanity:

God made flesh, born of Mary,

opening to all the world the promise you made to Abraham and Sarah.

Empower your church to be as the light of the star,

that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord,

through whom we pray. Amen.

* Hymn No. 152 **“WHAT STAR IS THIS, WITH BEAMS SO BRIGHT”**

*What star is this, with beams so bright,
more love-ly than the noon-day light?
'Tis sent to announce a new-born king,
glad ti-dings of our God to bring.*

*'Tis now ful-filled what God de-creed,
“From Ja-cob shall a star pro-ceed”;
and lo! the east-ern sa-ges stand
to read in heaven the Lord’s com-mand.*

*While out-ward signs the star dis-plays,
an in-ward light the Lord con-veys
and urg-es them, with ten-der might,
to seek the giv-er of the light.*

*O Je-sus, while the star of grace
im-pels us on to seek your face,
let not our sloth-ful hearts re-fuse
the guid-ance of your light to use.*

* Call to Confession

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts.
Trusting in God’s grace,
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ,
but we have preferred to live in darkness.
Your justice protects the weak and the distressed,
yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.
Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy,
yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.
Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless,**

**yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.
Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,
that we may trust you in all things;
through Jesus Christ 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

This is the good news:

Christ is the light of the world,

who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins. 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

Children’s Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of God, in the proclamation of your Word,
reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ,
and strengthen our faith that we may approach you with boldness.
Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Prophet	Isaiah 60:1-6	<i>(The Ingathering of the Dispersed)</i>	Pg. 649
Wisdom	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	<i>(Prayer ... for the King)</i>	Pg. 504
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12	<i>(The Visit of the Wise Men)</i>	Pg. 1

Sermon: "Following the Star"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith **Apostle's Creed** (Trad.) Hymnal – pg. 35

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

INSTALLATION OF RULING ELDERS – CLASS OF 2025

Sentences of Scripture (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**P: There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

L: God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is to God's purpose that it is accomplished.

P: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

L: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination

We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.

This is our common calling,

to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church,

some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders,
and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Today we install four from our congregation
to active service as ruling elders.

(The Clerk of Session)

Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church,
the session of Bethel Presbyterian Church now installs

Brenda Bunch, Jim Condon, Larry Koppelberger, and Elaine Steele
to active service as ruling elders in this congregation.

All have been previously ordained.

Constitutional Questions to New Elders

Brenda, Jim, Larry, and Elaine, in baptism you were claimed by the love of
God, clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ, and anointed with the gifts of
the Holy Spirit to share Christ's mission in the world. Now you are
called by God through the voice of the church for new service and
ministry in Jesus' name.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), please show your commitment to this calling by responding to these questions:

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, do you? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you, do you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenants of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God, do you and will you? **I do, and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our Confessions, will you? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit, will you? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world, will you? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church, do you? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, will you? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and

discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ, will you?

I will with God's help.

Constitutional Questions to the Congregation (*Clerk of Session*)

Do we, the members of the church, accept Brenda, Jim, Larry, and Elaine as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Installation

Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you thanks and praise.

Throughout the ages and in every place

you have chosen servants from among your people
to point the way to salvation by your grace.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your servants

Brenda, Jim, Larry, and Elaine as they continue in the ministry
to which you have called them.

Help them to rely on the gifts of your Spirit
and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

Give to each of them a spirit of truthfulness

that they may show the compassion of Christ in the actions of daily living
and rightly govern your people.

By the gifts of your Holy Spirit empower them to build up the church,
to strengthen the common life of your people,
and to lead with compassion and vision.

In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry,

give to all your servants gladness and strength, discipline and hope,
humility, humor, and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit of power and truth
upon the whole church, that we may be for you a holy people,
baptized to serve you in the world.

Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together,
that we may be effective servants of the gospel,
offering a compelling witness in the world
to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Installation

Brenda, Jim, Larry, and Elaine, you are installed as ruling elders,
called to active ministries of service and governance
in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Welcome!

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*(With the words "Glorious Light"
you are invited to respond "**hear our prayer.**"*

In confidence let us pray to the Lord, saying,
God of Wisdom, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God,
Through Christ you call us all
into your covenant with Abraham and Sarah.
For your church throughout the world,
that it may be a faithful witness, declaring your wisdom to all authorities:
God of Wisdom, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

The wise men came to King Herod in trust,
but he betrayed their trust and perpetrated unspeakable evil.
For the leaders of the government,
that they reject the way of Herod
and exercise their authority in truth, justice, and mercy:
God of Mercy, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled before the wrath of Herod
and became refugees in Egypt.

For all those who suffer from political oppression,
injustice, or war, and especially for refugees:

God of Justice, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

Joseph dreamed a future for his son, and obeyed your will for his family.
For all families that they may live in peace according to your will,
God of Peace, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived with neighbors, and received help from strangers.
For our neighborhoods,

that they may be communities of human flourishing,
offering kindness to strangers,

God of Harmony, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, Gracious God,
and grant us to live as heirs of your promise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*sin / sin against us*)

Hymnal pg. 35

Our Father, who art in heaven, ...

Call to Offering

God intends to unite all creation,
so that all may share in the promises of God's new reign.
Therefore with gratitude and joy, let us bring gifts,
for we have access to God in boldness and confidence
through faith in Christ.

Offertory

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Glorious God, you led three magi
to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary.
They knelt down at the infant's crib
and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving
for the birth of your child,
whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life.
Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign
of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ.
Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

*We three kings of O-ri-ent are; bear-ing gifts we tra-verse a-far,
field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol-low-ing yon-der star.*

Refrain:

*O star of won-der, star of light, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light!*

*Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a-gain,
King for-ev-er, ceas-ing nev-er o-ver us all to reign.*

[Refrain]

*Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I; in-cense owns a de-i-ty nigh;
prayer and prais-ing, glad-ly rais-ing, wor-ship-ing God Most High.*

[Refrain]

*Myrrh is mine; its bit-ter per-fume breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom;
sor-rowing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy-ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

[Refrain]

*Glo-rious now be-hold him a-rise; King and God and sac-ri-fice:
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! sounds through the earth and skies.*

Refrain:

*O star of won-der, star of light, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light!*

* Charge and Blessing

Let us go forth rejoicing in the light of God's love.

May the love of Christ that shines in you
shine brightly in the world where you go.

And the blessing of God,

Divine Giver, Radiant Light, and Fountain of Life
bless you and keep you always.

* 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

“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

“What Star Is this, with Beams So Bright”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-718125
All Rights Reserved