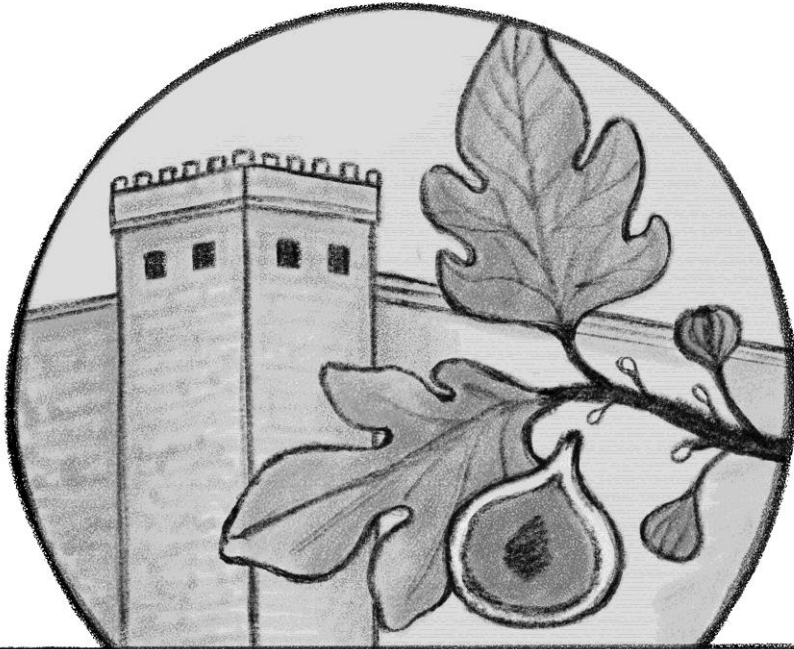


Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

~ a welcoming community ~



Third Sunday in Lent

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.)
Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023 - 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: We gather together –

**P: the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,
in hopes of seeing God.**

L: We gather together –

**P: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,
in hopes of finding peace.**

L: We gather together—

**P: those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,
in hopes of finding justice.**

L: So come to the well, come to the table.

Come, let us worship God. Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Lord God, Great I Am, you are the living water.

As we worship you this day show us who we are:
channels of your love and vessels of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*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

In today's service we will hear the story of the Samaritan woman. It's a well-known story of a woman who, in the heat of the day, meets Jesus at a well and he asks her for a drink. Every time I read this story, I cannot help but ask myself—when was the last time I drew water for someone? When was the last time I drew water for myself? So with this same open curiosity, we come to the prayer of confession, trusting that

even if we forget our bucket, God will still meet us at the well.
Friends, with that grace in mind, let us pray.

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we have been on every side of this story.
We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion,
and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well.
So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity
to share water with our neighbors?
How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket
and the power to bring change?
How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion
were not worth the work?
Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you
who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day.
It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, amen.**

* Sung Response No. 437 “**YOU ARE THE LORD, GIVER OF MERCY**”

*You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!
You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!*

* Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine: we could lose the bucket,
we could hoard the water for ourselves,
we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty,
and we would still belong to God.

This is the good news of the gospel: God’s grace is deeper than any well.
We are seen, loved, and forgiven.

May this realization change and inspire us. Amen

* Sung Response No. 553 “**CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN**” LAND OF REST

*Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.*

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

God of conversation, We come to you today thirsty—
thirsty for hope, thirsty for good news, thirsty for a glimpse of you.

So today we pray, move in these words like a current.

Give us the courage to wade into your story
with open eyes and open hearts.

Give us the courage to drink this moment in.

We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Torah	Exodus 17:1-7	<i>(Water from the Rock)</i>	Pg. 61
Wisdom	Psalm 95	<i>(A Call to Worship and Obedience)</i>	Pg. 520
Gospel	John 4:5-30; 39-42	<i>(Jesus and the Woman of Samaria)</i>	Pg. 89

Sermon “Will You Give Me a Drink?”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.09*

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery

which the Scriptures describe in various ways.

It is called the sacrifice of a lamb,

a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest;

again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt,

vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty,

and victory over the powers of evil.

**These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach
of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind.**

**They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement
of God's reconciling work.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*(With the words "We are thirsty"
you are invited to respond **"Pour out your Spirit."**)*

Prayer is an opportunity for us to be bold, vulnerable, and human before God. To ask for what we really need, to share our anxiety, our fear, our hunger and thirst. Today, as we continue to listen for God's voice in prayer, we will share our thirst - for abundant life, for peace, for wholeness - and we will hold silence as we listen for God's gracious reply. As I start each petition, I invite you to take a deep breath, to close your eyes, and to listen for what God might be saying to you now. The silence of each petition will close with our response. When I say, "We are thirsty," please respond with "**Pour out your Spirit.**"

God, we thirst for your presence, your guidance,
and your hope in our communities of faith.

We call to mind this congregation, our Presbytery of East Tennessee,
and all churches.

Help us be honest about the boundaries and divisions
that dry out our connection to each other and to you.

We are thirsty, **pour out your Spirit.**

God, we thirst for peace in our homes, communities, nations, and world.

We call to mind the conflicts in our world,

the people and communities who are endangered by natural disaster,
famine, war, and economic difficulties.

We especially think of the people of Turkey, Syria, and Ukraine.

When the challenges seem too overwhelming,

point us to sources of your living water.

We are thirsty, **pour out your Spirit.**

God, we are thirsty for healing in body, mind, and spirit.
We call to mind those in this congregation and on our prayer list.
Help us take the risk to ask for help and to offer it.
We are thirsty, **pour out your Spirit.**

You are the source of living water, gushing up to eternal life.
Give us faith to trust that you hear our prayers and know all our needs,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

Call to Offering

See how the fields are ripe for harvest!
Already, God is gathering fruit for eternal life.
With rejoicing, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory

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

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:
O Lord, you are our God;
we are the people of your pasture, the sheep of your hand.
As you have fed us by your mercy,
may it be our daily bread to do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 699

“FILL MY CUP”

*Fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
let it o-ver-flow with love.*

*Lord, let me be your in-stru-ment,
spread-ing sun-shine in the land;
let peo-ple see your works in me;
help me live the best I can.*

*Fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
let it o-ver-flow with love.*

*It's my de-sire to live for you
and to al-ways walk up-right;
Give me the strength to face each day;
stay with me through each dark night.*

*Fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow;
let it o-ver-flow with love.*

*Fill My Cup Let It Overflow,
Fill My Cup Let It Overflow
Let It Overflow With Love.*

* Benediction

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,
go now in peace. Amen

* Sung Response No. 547 **“GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING”**

(Verse 3)

“Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

Here my Spir-it’s pow-er filled you;

here my ten-der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.”

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text; rev. The Worshipbook, 1970

Text © 1970 The Westminster Press (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Music © 1972 The Westminster Press (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

“Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text;

Music: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Fill My Cup”

Text and Music: Isaiah Jones Jr., 1969

Text & Music © 1970 Davike Music Company,
assigned 1986 Fricout Music Company

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Welsh melody

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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