

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

~ a community of faith coming together,
for fellowship, study and service . . .
seeking God's peace, justice and love ~



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 in Lent
March 20, 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

“PIE JESU”

Andrew Lloyd Webber

*Translation: Merciful Jesus, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest.
O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest.*

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: Everyone who thirsts:

**P: Come to the waters, seek the Lord,
repent and return so that you may live.**

L: All who are hungry for righteousness:

**P: Come to the waters, seek the Lord,
repent and return so that you may live.**

L: All who need the help of God:

**P: Come to the waters, seek the Lord,
repent and return so that you may live.**

Prayer of Invocation

Your glory and power, O God, surround us in the sanctuary.

We lift up our hands and call on your name.

We are your people, thirsty for the living water you alone can give.

When we consider how you have helped us,
giving us a spring that gushes up to eternal life, we cling to you,
singing praises with joyful lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Come, ye sin-ners, poor and need-y,
weak and wound-ed, sick and sore;
Je-sus read-y stands to save you,
full of pit-y, love, and power.*

*I will a-rise and go to Je-sus;
he will em-brace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Sav-ior,
O there are ten thou-sand charms.*

*Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel-come;
God’s free boun-ty glo-ri-fy,
true be-lief and true re-pen-tance,
ev-ery grace that brings you nigh.*

*I will a-rise and go to Je-sus;
he will em-brace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Sav-ior,
O there are ten thou-sand charms.*

*Come, ye wea-ry, heav-y-lad-en,
lost and ru-ined by the fall;
if you tar-ry til you’re bet-ter
you will nev-er come at all.*

*I will a-rise and go to Je-sus;
he will em-brace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Sav-ior,
O there are ten thou-sand charms.*

*Let not con-science make you linger
nor of fit-ness fond-ly dream;
all the fit-ness he re-quir-eth
is to feel your need of him.*

*I will a-rise and go to Je-sus;
he will em-brace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Sav-ior,
O there are ten thou-sand charms.*

* Call to Confession

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways
and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon.
Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near.

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you.
You set before us a rich feast of blessing,
but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.
You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world,
but we indulge our own desires.
Our ways are not your ways;
our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.
Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.
Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire
for a more fruitful life.
Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are,
in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.
We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. 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!*

* Declaration of Forgiveness (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: God's love is sure and steadfast,
always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

**P: Through the waters of baptism,
we have died with Christ and are raised with him.
With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ.**

* Sung Response No. 544 "BLESS THE LORD"

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in-to life.

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem

"HOPE OF THE WORLD"

Lloyd Larson

Prayer for Illumination

We seek you in your word, O God,
as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us
a rich feast, satisfying the soul.

Then with our mouths, we will praise you;
and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Psalter Psalm 63:1-8 (*Comfort & Assurance in God's Presence*) Pg. 498

Gospel Luke 13:1-9 (*Repent or Perish*) Pg. 71

Prophet Isaiah 55:1-9 (*An Invitation to Abundant Life*) Pg. 644

Sermon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Hymnal Pg. 37, Sections 1-2

*Jesus portion of The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

**In life and death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God of generous provision, we are grateful for the many ways
you care for us and provide for the needs of your people.

In word, water, bread, and wine, you nourish and sustain us.

When we listen to you, we encounter delight,
and when we come to you, we live most fully.

Sometimes, though, we find ourselves in a dry and weary land . . .

Where we have misused and depleted creation,
drought and famine leave people and animals facing hunger
and starvation.

Where we have polluted streams, rivers, and oceans,
fish and other water creatures suffer and die.

People without access to clean water become sick.

O God, help us to care for your creation in ways that make it possible
for all to have enough food and water—life, verdant and abundant.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a dry and weary land . . .

In places torn apart by war, where the earth itself has been ravaged;
where hospitals and homes and corner stores have been reduced to rubble;
where human lives have been destroyed and deformed;
where peace lies in the ruins and hope is buried.

O God, raise peace among us again. Build hope up from the ground.

Restore in us and in the world's leaders the will and determination
to make an end of war and a new beginning for justice.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a dry and weary land . . .

When we are lost, unable to find our way to a place that is home for us;
when we are sad and weighed down with regret or grief;
when we are tired or sick in body, mind, or spirit.

O God, provide water in the desert and manna in the wilderness—
enough to sustain us for one more day,
even enough to revive us for the long haul.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence . . .

We celebrate a new beginning in our lives:

a new job, a new relationship, a new life,
a new day of sobriety, a second chance.

O God, we give thanks to you for this new blessing in our lives.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence . . .

We give thanks for the gift of healing after injury or illness;

for laughter that bubbles up to replace our tears;
for hope that spills its soothing light over the darkness of our despair.

O God, we thank you for the gift of wholeness and resurrection
promised to us in Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence . . .

We enjoy the relief of forgiveness given and received;

we enjoy a breach in walls of division; our own hearts are enlarged
and our own vision is broadened by new understanding;

we welcome a prodigal home or are ourselves welcomed home again.

O God, we thank you that you are reconciling all things
in heaven and on earth.

Be patient with us, we pray, in the varied landscapes of our lives.

Make us patient with one another and even with ourselves.

Do your good work within us, among us, and beyond us, too,
until our lives and all of creation come fully into your realm.

You, who so generously provide, deserve our praise, our grateful praise.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Disciples of Jesus, children of God,

we often spend our money on that which is not true bread,
and labor toward things that will never satisfy.

In our offering, we give to you things that are of God:

bread for the hungry, good news for those who are oppressed,
the ministries of the church that welcome strangers
and sons and daughters alike.

We bring before God a portion of all that God has so freely given to us.

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

Let us pray: God of wilderness and Promised Land,

in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us.

By these gifts we now share,

may others know of your providence and care.

Send us—not only our offerings, but our very selves—

to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out,

to listen and sit beside your children everywhere

at the one Table you have set; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 744

“ARISE YOUR LIGHT IS COME”

FESTAL SONG

*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.*

*A-rise, your light is come!
Fling wide the pris-on door;
pro-claim the cap-tives' lib-er-ty,
good ti-dings to the poor.*

*A-rise, your light is come!
All you in sor-row born,
bind up the bro-ken-heart-ed ones
and com-fort those who mourn.*

*A-rise, your light is come!
The moun-tains burst in song!
Rise up like ea-gles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.*

* Benediction

On this third Sunday of Lent,
we are urged to shake off the complacency that can overtake us;
to seek God as people in a dry and weary land seek water;
and to bear fruit in our daily lives
that contributes to God's kingdom of justice and love.
May the mercy of God ground us,
the love of Christ take root in us,
and the Holy Spirit grow in us,
that we may be ready for the coming of the kingdom.

* 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 power 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

“Bless the Lord”

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Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984

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“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

Text: Ruth Duck, 1974.

Music: William H. Walter, 1894

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Welsh melody

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“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

“You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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