



FIFTH SUNDAY  
*in*

LENT

**The Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Bethel Presbyterian Church - Online Service**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**March 21, 2021 - 11:00 AM**

Welcome

Prelude

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

L: In times of security and times of uncertainty,

**P: O Lord, you hear our prayers.**

L: Confident in your faithfulness,

**P: We will ever praise your name.**

L: Through the abundance of your steadfast love  
you have gathered us into your house.

**P: In the holiness of your presence,  
we bow down to worship and adore you.**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

God of grace,

you pour out your mercy with abundance  
and your grace with boundless generosity.

Make us ever more faithful, and ever more grateful,  
as we strive to give to others  
in the same measure you give to us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn           **“HOW CLEAR IS OUR VOCATION, LORD”**

*How clear is our vo-ca-tion, Lord,  
when once we heed your call  
to live ac-cord-ing to your word  
and dai-ly learn, re-freshed, re-stored,  
that you are Lord of all  
and will not let us fall.*

*But if, for-get-ful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind*

*and love it-self can-not un-wind  
its tan-gled skein of care:  
our in-ward life re-pair.*

*We mar-vel how your saints be-came  
in hin-dranc-es more sure:  
whose joy-ful vir-tues put to shame  
the ca-sual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults ob-scure  
your power to cleanse and cure.*

*In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
to-geth-er or a-lone,  
in old rou-tines or ven-tures new,  
may we not cease to look to you:  
the cross you hung up-on,  
all you en-deav-ored, done.*

#### Call to Confession

Even in our faithlessness, God loves us still  
and waits in mercy to forgive.

Trusting in the promises given at our baptism,  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

#### Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you promise us a life full of blessing,  
but we do not always believe.**

**You incite us to hope, but we fall back into fear.**

**You urge us to give freely, but we cling to what we have.**

**You call us to watch at all times for you,  
but we grow lazy and self-absorbed.**

**Forgive us.**

**Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts,  
and keep us alert to the wonders you work  
in the world every day.**

**For the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News!

By faith we have been saved, our guilty hearts washed clean.  
Refreshed, revived, and renewed,  
empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
live as ones who are forgiven and freed, giving thanks to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Speak to us, O Lord, your saving Word;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit and feed us with the bread of life.  
Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture

History 1 Kings 17:8-16                   *(The Widow of Zarephath)*

Gospel John 12:1-11                   *(Mary Anoints Jesus)*

Sermon

“Love - Unending”  
The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

Affirmation of Faith

*Taken from 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 this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Prayers of the People

We cry to you for help, O Lord,  
for you alone have the power to restore our lives.

Give bread to those who are hungry  
and drink to those who thirst.

Give life to those who are dying  
and grace to those who are sick with sin.

Give justice to those who are oppressed  
and peace to those who live in fear.

Give comfort to those who mourn  
and hope to those who despair.

As you breathe life into dust  
and make dry bones dance with joy,  
give new life to this weary world;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.**

Hymn

**“THE CHURCH OF CHRIST CANNOT BE BOUND”**

*The church of Christ can-not be bound  
by walls of wood or stone.*

*Where char-i-ty and love are found,  
there can the church be known.*

*True faith will o-pen up the door  
and step in-to the street.  
True ser-vice will seek out the poor  
and ask to wash their feet.*

*True love will not sit i-dly by  
when jus-tice is de-nied.  
True mer-cy hears the home-less cry  
and wel-comes them in-side.*

*If what we have we free-ly share  
to meet our neigh-bor’s need,  
then we ex-tend the Spir-it’s care  
through ev-ery self-less deed.*

*The church of Christ can-not be bound  
by walls of wood or stone.  
Where char-i-ty and love are found,  
there can the church be known.*

Benediction

Your life is a gift of grace;  
use it to give glory to God!

Now arise and go with joy!  
God looks with favor upon you.

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer

Sound: Adam Badger

Video: Jake Horton

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“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1981

Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

“The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005

Music: African American spiritual;

Jubilee Songs, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

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