

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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

FOURTH
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.)
4th Sunday in Lent
March 27, 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: Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

L: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Gracious God, seeker of the lost:

draw your children back to your loving embrace,

restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons,

and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become

ambassadors of your reconciling love to all the world.

Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. 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

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ,
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways.
Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.
You gave us the earth for our home,
but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.
You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions.
You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing,
but we break your law and forsake your love.
Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.
Draw our wandering hearts back to you
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.
Through Christ our Lord we pray.**

* Declaration of Forgiveness

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,
so God embraces all who return in true repentance.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* 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

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit

open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word,
that we may see the world through the mind of Christ
and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Psalter Psalm 32:1-2, 10-11 (*The Joy of Forgiveness*) Pg. 479
Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (*The Ministry of Reconciliation*) Pg. 170
Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (*The Parable of the Prodigal Son*) Pg. 73

Sermon "Will You Come to the Party?"

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

*(With the words "Let us pray to the Lord"
you are invited to respond "Lord, have mercy.")*

In peace let us pray to the Lord,
Lord have mercy.

For the church throughout the world,
that all Christians may embody the reconciling love of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the nations of the world and its leaders,
that all may dwell in peace and that justice may be tempered by mercy,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the planet Earth, God's gift to humankind,
that all may share wisely its resources
and conserve its riches for our children's children,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For our enemies, that we may regard them
with the reconciling love made manifest in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For those who are sick or in trouble,
for the defenseless, the weak, and the poor,
that they may be restored to wholeness of life and livelihood,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the lost, for those who have abandoned God, friends, or family,
and for those who have never known such love,
that they may come to know the joy of love's embrace,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

Loving God, hear the prayers of your people for the sake of our world,
and our Savior Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.

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

**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

As people of the New Creation, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

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:

O God, all that we have comes from you.

Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives,

for we return to you only what you have so graciously given.

Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 774

“**THERE IS NOW A NEW CREATION**”

STUTT GART

*There is now a new cre-a-tion through the grace of Je-sus Christ,
peace and rec-on-cil-i-a-tion with the God of end-less life.*

*Call the lost and found to-geth-er; tell the news to ev-ery-one:
now the past is gone for-ev-er and a new life has be-gun.*

*Wrap the prod-i-gal in wel-come; run to greet the way-ward child.
All is fin-ished and for-giv-en; let us now be rec-on-ciled.*

*Come and join the cel-e-bra-tion; come and join this hap-py feast;
Je-sus makes an in-vi-ta-tion to the great-est and the least.*

*There is now a new cre-a-tion through the grace of Je-sus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and ad-o-ra-tion, to the God of end-less life!*

* Charge

Go forth as ambassadors for Christ, in whom we have new life.

* Benediction

The God of reconciliation bless you,
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you
this day and forevermore.

* 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”

Text: Taizé Community, 1984

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Text & Music © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

“There Is Now a New Creation”

Text: David Gambrell, 2009

Music: Witt’s Psalmodia Sacra, 1715, alt.

Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Welsh melody

Text © Concordia Publishing House

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“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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