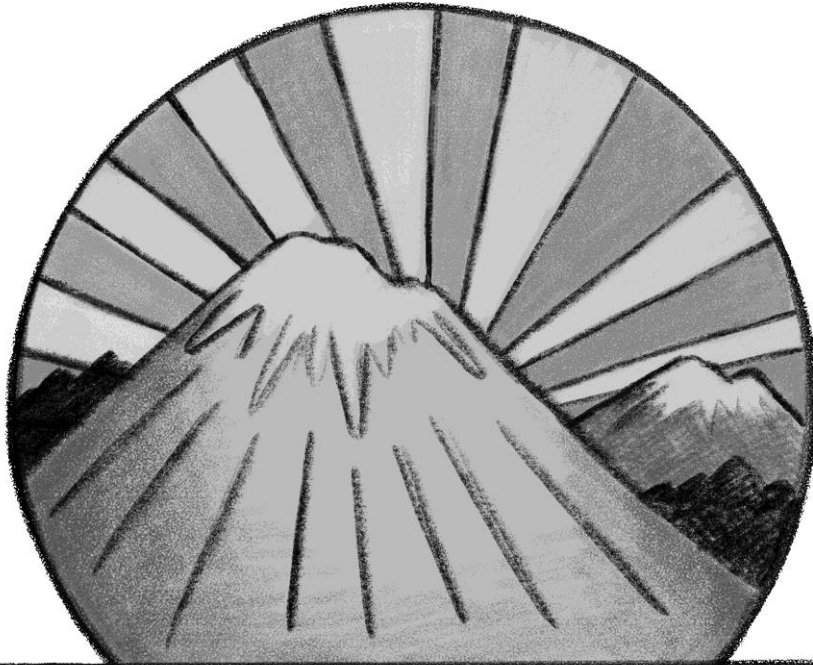


Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
... a welcoming community.



Second 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.)
Communion Sunday / 2nd Sunday in Lent
March 5, 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: What is it like to begin again?

P: It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

L: May we find God in our seeking.

P: May we learn as we go.

L: May we be brave enough to begin again.

P: Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

God our helper, our shade, our protector,

you are able to give life to the dead,

to call into being things that do not exist.

We trust in your power to make all things new;

to keep us in sunlight and moonlight,

along rocky paths and pathways unknown;

until all our going and coming brings us at last
to your kingdom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

* Hymn No. 634

“TO GOD BE THE GLORY”

*To God be the glo-ry, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yield-ed his life an a-tone-ment for sin,
and o-pened the life-gate that all may go in.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the peo-ple re-joice!*

*O come to the Fa-ther through Je-sus the Son,
and give him the glo-ry: great things he has done!*

*Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our re-joic-ing through Je-sus the Son;
but pur-er and high-er and great-er will be
our won-der, our tras-port, when Je-sus we see.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo-ple re-joice!
O come to the Fa-ther through Je-sus the Son,
and give him the glo-ry: great things he has done!*

* Call to Confession

One of the things I love about the prayer of confession
is it offers us a new beginning.

In the prayer of confession, we lay our cards on the table.

We speak honestly with God about who we are and who we long to be.

And in response, God wraps us in grace and lets us begin again.

So together, with God’s grace, let us wipe the slate clean.

Together, with God’s grace, let us pray the prayer of confession:

* Prayer of Confession (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: God of new life, you call us into unknown places,

P: and we bury our heads in the sand.

L: You promise all the stars in the sky,

P: and we doubt it can be true.

L: You speak of new life in the Spirit,

P: and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.

L: Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.

P: Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes.

Give us the courage to begin again with you. 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, hear and believe this good news:

There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine.

No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven.

Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new.

Join me in saying:

We belong to God. We are held in God's love.

We are made new. 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

Holy God, We come to you today with our biggest questions:

Who are we called to be? What do you need from us?

Where are you in our midst? How can we follow you more clearly?

As we read your Word today,

we ask that you would weave answers into the text.

Speak to us through these ancient stories

that we might find what we are seeking in you.

With gratitude and open hearts we pray, amen.

Readings from Scripture

Torah	Genesis 12:1-4a	<i>(The Call of Abram)</i>	Pg. 9
Wisdom	Psalms 121	<i>(Assurance of God's Protection)</i>	Pg. 539
Gospel	John 3:1-17	<i>(Nicodemus Visits Jesus)</i>	Pg. 88

Sermon: How Do We Begin Again?

The Reverend Nancy Coleman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith Nicene Creed Hymnal – pg. 34

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Offering

All that we have is a gift from God.
In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion
of what we have so abundantly received,
as grateful heirs of the promises of 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

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives,
your guidance in the baptismal journey,
and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others.
Accept what we bring for your own good purposes.
In Christ we pray. Amen.

*As the wind song through the trees,
as the stir-ring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spir-it of God,
as the heart made strange-ly warm,
as the voice with-in the storm,
so it is with the Spir-it of God.
Nev-er seen, ev-er known
where this wind has blown
bring-ing life, bring-ing power to the world,
as the danc-ing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep de-sire,
so it is with the Spir-it of God.*

*As the rain-bow af-ter rain,
as the hope that's born a-gain,
so it is with the Spir-it of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spir-it of God,
mak-ing worlds that are new,
mak-ing peace come true,
bring-ing gifts, bring-ing love to the world,
as the ris-ing of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spir-it of God.*

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Like a tent in the wilderness the table of God stands open
and ready as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing.
So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished;
come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort;
for here, Jesus –

who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places – waits to meet us and welcome us in, offering us rest and restoration, solace and strength, for the journey still to come.

Great Thanksgiving (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, before going out into the wilderness of the Garden,
your son Jesus sat down to eat and drink with his friends.

To show them the challenge of the way ahead,
and offer them gifts for that journey, he took bread –
sustaining and wholesome – and poured wine – earthy and warming –
sharing these as signs of his continuing presence with them
throughout time to come.

And now, remembering that moment,
and recognizing that its promise is also for us in this time and place,
we too break bread and pour wine to share with one another.

And in that action, we recognize and affirm with joy
that Christ is present with us now, and throughout time to come;
and we join our voices with those of all creation
in the unending song of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

God of the liminal places, send down upon us now,
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that same Spirit who drove Jesus into the desert,
that we too may be tempered and strengthened by your Presence
and refreshed and renewed through your love.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever more.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.**

Words of Institution

(Breaking Bread)

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed,
took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

(Pouring Wine)

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed with my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Distribution of the Elements

The tent side is open, the table is set,
and God waits for us to come in from the desert for a while
and be refreshed.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

(Bread is distributed).

The body of Christ, broken for us all. *(All eat bread together)*

(Juice is distributed).

The blood of Christ, shed for us all. *(All drink juice together)*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Let us pray.

Prayer after Communion

Thank you, gracious God,
for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days.
As we travel on through the wilderness,
help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 291

“SPIRIT, SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS”

SPIRIT

Refrain:

*Spir-it, spir-it of gen-tle-ness,
blow through the wil-der-ness, call-ing and free.*

*Spir-it, spir-it of rest-less-ness,
stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the wa-ters; you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the moun-tains from the val-leys of sleep;
and o-ver the e-ons you called to each thing,
“A-wake from your slum-bers and rise on your wings.”*

(Refrain)

*You swept through the des-ert; you stung with the sand;
and you goad-ed your peo-ple with a law and a land.
When they were con-found-ed with i-dols and lies,
then you spoke through your proph-ets to o-pen their eyes.*

(Refrain)

*You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill;
then you whis-pered in si-lence when the whole world was still.
And down in the cit-y, you called once a-gain
when you blew through your peo-ple on the rush of the wind.*

(Refrain)

*You call from to-mor-row; you break an-cient schemes;
from the bond-age of sor-row the cap-tives dream dreams.
Our wom-en see vi-sions; our men clear their eyes.
With bold new de-ci-sions your peo-ple a-rise.*

(Refrain)

* 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

Minister: The Reverend Nancy Coleman

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Music Director: Judy Yeaworth

Sound: Adam Badger

Liturgist: Chuck Bunch

Video: Jake Horton

Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Words of Forgiveness,
Prayer for Illumination, Benediction by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
| A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Communion Service for Lent
Adapted from *Walking the Wilderness:
A Communion Service for the Season of Lent*
by Pat Bennett, Wild Goose Publications, 2015.

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.

“As the Wind Song”

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 2004
Music: Swee Hong Lim, 2004
Text & Music © 2005 Hope Publishing Company

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Text: Jarolav J. Vajda, 1983
Music: Welsh melody
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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“To God Be the Glory”
“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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