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The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church Outdoor & Online
6th Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021 – 11:00 AM

Congregational responses indicated in bold.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

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

L: Sing to our God a new song.

P: God has done marvelous things!

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

P: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

L: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

P: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

Prayer of Invocation

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us.
Bring us into spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend,
and teach us to abide in your love,
that we may show that love to the world. Amen.

Hymn

“O SING TO THE LORD”

Brazilian folk melody

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

For God is the Lord, and God has done won-ders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done won-ders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done won-ders.

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

So dance for our God and blow all the trum-pets.

So dance for our God and blow all the trum-pets.

So dance for our God and blow all the trum-pets.

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

*O shout to our God, who gave us the Spir-it.
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spir-it.
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spir-it.*

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

For Je-sus is Lord! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia!

For Je-sus is Lord! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia!

For Je-sus is Lord! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia!

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

Call to Confession

We have been called to follow Christ
by obeying his one commandment:
that we love one another as he as loved us.
Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we have not loved you
or each other with our whole hearts.
Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness,
that we may be filled with your joy.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Sung Response

“LORD, HAVE MERCY”

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us
and calls us his friends.
If we can forgive our friends,
how much more does Christ forgive us!

Sung Response

“ALLELUIA!”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Prayer for Illumination

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God,
in the reading of your Word,
that we would hear what you have to say to us today.
May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading from Scripture

Wisdom Psalm 98 *(Praise the Judge of the World)*
Gospel John 15:9-17 *(Jesus the True Vine)*

Sermon

“Friends Who Love One Another”

The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God

**whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating even death,
is our glorious promise of freedom.**

**Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,
in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth
and to share the commonwealth of God’s goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power
of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful
so to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

We sing for joy, O God,
for you are coming to judge the world
with righteousness and fairness
between nations and between people.

We pray for the poor and the desperate
as well as for those who abuse and oppress them,
both here and abroad.

Comfort those who suffer
and chasten those who cause their suffering,
that your justice may be known in all the earth.

We pray for families, communities, and nations
torn apart by violence.
Heal the broken places and imbue your earth with peace.

We pray for the sick and the dying,
for those who are friendless and lonely,
for those living with grief or depression.
Bring them your friendship and renew their joy.

We pray for ourselves, your church,
that we may bear fruit of peace, hope, and love,
fruit that will last.

Now in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our friend,
and in the Holy Spirit poured out on us,
we sing a new song to praise you
for you are doing marvelous things! 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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Let us show our friendship with Christ
and our love for our neighbors
by giving generously
so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ's love.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends
and to know your will in the world.

Therefore we pray in Jesus' name
that these tithes and offerings spread your love near and far.
Amen.

Hymn **“THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE”**

*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all u-ni-ty may one day be re-stored:*

*And they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
and to-geth-er we’ll spread the news that God is in our land:*

*And they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love.*

*We will work with each oth-er; we will work side by side;
we will work with each oth-er; we will work side by side;
and we’ll guard hu-man dig-ni-ty and save hu-man pride:*

*And they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love.*

*All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Je-sus, God’s on-ly Son,
and all praise to the Spir-it who makes us one.*

*And they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love.*

Benediction

Live in the joy of Christ’s love

and in all the marvelous things that God is doing!

May the righteous fairness of God, the loving friendship of Christ,
and the gift of the Holy Spirit go with you all.

Sung Response

“BE NOT AFRAID ”

Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!

Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!

(Repeat)

Postlude

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer

Hymn Leader: Dianne Griffith

Sound: Adam Badger

Video: Jake Horton

“O Sing to the Lord”

Text: Brazilian folk song; trans. English 1986, Gerhard M. Cartford

Music: Brazilian folk melody; arr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1982

English Trans. And Music Arr. © Gerhard M. Cartford

(admin. Augsburg Fortress)

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

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

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Alleluia!”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: Fintan O’Carroll, 1981; harm. Christopher Walker, 1985

Music © 1985 Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker

(Published by OCP)

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Text and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966

Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications,

assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

“Be Not Afraid”

Text: Taizé Community, 1998

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1998

Text and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé

(admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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