

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.)
1st Sunday of Advent / First Day of the New Christian Year
November 28, 2021 - 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

Lighting of the Advent Candle

(L = Leader, P = People / Romans 13:11-12; Isaiah 2:4)

L: Let us worship God.

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

P: The night is far gone, the day is near.

L: They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

**P: nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.**

We light this candle in Hope. *(Light candle #1)*

Wreath Lighting Song *(Sung to tune Hymn No. 146 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child)*

Shines one can-dle on this day for the Lord's re-turn-ing!

Stay a-lert now, watch and pray; keep this bright flame burn-ing!

***Can-dle on our wreath, now shed your warm light sur-roun-ding;
to this cold world help us spread God's great love a-boun-ding.***

Prayer

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations.
Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert
as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our judge and Savior,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

* Hymn No. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, O come, Em-man-u-el,
and ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el,
that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here
un-til the Son of God ap-pear.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.*

*O come, thou Wis-dom from on high,
who or-derest all things might-i-ly:
to us the path of knowl-edge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.*

* Call to Confession (*Jn. 1:11-12*)

Scripture declares,

Christ “came unto his own, and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God.”

Let us, then, confess our failure faithfully to follow Christ’s will.

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

God of the future,

you are coming in power to bring all humankind under your rule.

But we have not expected your kingdom.

We have lived casually, ignoring the great needs around us.

We have accepted lies as truth,

ignored and exploited our neighbors who differ from us,

neglected and abused the earth,

and balked at joining your call to work for peace and justice.

Forgive us.

Help us to welcome your way,

and to seek those things that shall endure

when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

* Sung Response No. 551

“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 (*1 Timothy 1:15*)

Brothers and sisters, hear these comforting words of Holy Scripture:

“The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

In his name I declare that we are forgiven.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

THE WORD

Children’s Moment

“Purple People”

(Children, young-at-hearts, please come forward.)

Prayer for Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word.

Silence in us all thoughts but your own

that, hearing, we may also obey your will, in Christ. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Prophet Isaiah 2:1-5 (*The Future House of God*) Pg. 594

Wisdom Psalm 25 (*Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance*) Pg. 475

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 (*Paul's Ministry ...*) Pg. 192

Sermon

“Shaking the Junkyard Blues”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith “Apostles’ Creed” Hymnal - pg. 35

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises,

the earth rejoices in the hope of our Savior's coming,

and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time.

Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever.

Amen

O God, keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom.
Make us strong in faith, so that we may welcome your Son
when he comes, and joyfully give him praise. **Amen.**

Wise God, you go before us, drawing us into the future where you are.
Help us to heed your call to beat swords into plowshares
and spears into pruning hooks.

Bless and guide our President, the Congress,
and the leaders of every nation as they work together for a better world.
May all that we do, as a Church and as individuals,
contribute to the coming of your great peace on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.

Hear now our petitions for you are the great Body of Christ
throughout this earth, and especially for this congregation,
its Session, and its pastor nominating committee,
that your Holy Spirit may reign in and among us all,
and that your will may always be done. **Amen.**

Hear our pleas for our brothers and sisters this morning
who are hurting in any way,
those whom we've mentioned in the bulletin and aloud,
and particularly those who bow in this holy place this morning
who may know pain in body, mind, or spirit.

Heal the sick, including those who seek release from COVID-19;
uphold them with your sure presence and peace.

Comfort all who mourn the deaths of loved ones,
and especially from the pandemic. **Amen.**

Finally, God of all eternity, keep us ever aware of our fellow Christians
who have gone before us into your everlasting peace;
until we, too, join them there in your good time. **Amen.**

For we make these and all our prayers in the strong name of Jesus Christ,
your Son, and our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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

Trusting in the sure promises of Christ,
and grateful for the Spirit's sustaining power,
let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

Offertory

* Hymn No. 606 **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”** OLD 100TH

*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

God of righteousness,
you have saved us from the worst the world can do
and have promised to redeem the whole creation
when Christ comes again.

In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self,
that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now,
as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 82 “COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

HYFRYDOL

*Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus,
born to set thy peo-ple free;
from our fears and sins re-lease us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Is-rael's strength and con-so-lation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion,
joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.*

*Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for-ev-er,
now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it
rule in all our hearts a-lone;
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it
raise us to thy glo-rious throne.*

* Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good.
Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor all people.
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.
The love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Wreath-Lighting Song”

Text: Dwyn M. Mounger, 2021

Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582; arr. Ernest C. MacMillan, 1930

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“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Text: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.

Music: Plainsong; arr John Weaver, 1988

Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: American folk melody; adapt. Marcia Pruner, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

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“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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