

Whoever wants to be
FIRST
must be
LAST
of all and servant of all.



MARK 9:35, NRSV

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.)
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 19, 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

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

L: Happy are the people

**P: who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that they follow,
or sit in the seat of people who make fun of others.**

L: Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

P: and they meditate on God's law day and night.

L: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

P: but the way of the wicked will perish.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

God of the first and the last, give us strength of mind,
that we might walk the path of obedience and discipleship
without wasting our time thinking about who is more important.

Instead, guide our thoughts and our emotions that we may be like children,
totally dependent on you, welcoming all with hospitality and love.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

* Hymn No. 702

“CHRIST BE BESIDE ME”

*Christ be be-side me; Christ be be-fore me;
Christ be be-hind me, King of my heart.
Christ be with-in me; Christ be be-low me;
Christ be a-bove me, ne-ver to part.*

*Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all a-round me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleep-ing, Christ in my sit-ting,
Christ in my ris-ing, Light of my life.*

*Christ be in all hearts think-ing a-bout me;
Christ be on all tongues tell-ing of me.
Christ be the vi-sion in eyes that see me;
in ears that hear me Christ ev-er be.*

* Call to Confession

Recognizing that we are easily swayed by the wrong advice
and that we have strayed from the ways of the Lord,
let us confess our sins to God, trusting God’s love and mercy.

* Prayer of Confession

God of wisdom forgive our foolishness.

**We desire what we do not need
and corrupt our relationships with envy.**

You urge us to gentleness, but we stir up conflict.

**Give us your grace, that we may harvest righteousness and peace,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Teacher, we pray.**

...(silent and personal confession) Amen.

* Sung Response No. 577 **“KYRIE ELEISON”**

GHANIAN KYRIE

(LORD, HAVE MERCY)

*Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.
Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.*

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
but the people who fear the Lord are to be praised.
Hear the good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and we can live in peace.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:
Your Word is our wisdom; it gives us insight, strength, and courage.
Open our hearts and our minds on this day,
that we might receive what you want to give.
Speak, Lord! Your people listen! Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Epistle	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	<i>(Two Kinds of Wisdom)</i>	Pg. 216
Gospel	Mark 9:30-37	<i>(Jesus Again Foretells ...)</i>	Pg. 42
Wisdom	Proverbs 31:10-31	<i>(Ode to a Capable Woman)</i>	Pg. 579

Sermon: Topsy Turvy Kingdom

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

We are the People of God.
We are a sign of the New World.
We believe in God.
We believe in the goodness of God,
the presence of God in human history,
and the nearness of God's love.
We believe in Christ.
We believe that God was and is revealed in human life,
that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing,
that out of death comes new life.
We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who moves among God's people

**and invites the world into God's reign.
We believe that the world can change,
that peace and wholeness can come,
and that the New World can arrive.
We are the people of God. We are the sign of the New World.
We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God of understanding, through the Word read and proclaimed,
and through your Word incarnate, Jesus Christ,
you give us the direction we need
and show us that there is nowhere else to go but to you
with our joys and our concerns.

We pray for our world that too often follows
the advice of wickedness that leads to war, to violence,
to conflict between ethnicities, to fear.

We pray for the women in this world
who, as payment for their devotion and love
as capable wives, daughters, sisters, girlfriends, mothers,
receive rejection, abuse, heartbreak, and hate.

We pray for relationships that are broken
by conflicts and dispute, by murder and deceit,
and that cannot find a way back to restoration and healing.

We pray for our children
who have been called the first in God's heart and kingdom
but are not welcomed, loved, heard, or spoken to.

We believe in you, God of justice and mercy,
and we ask, trusting in your power, to heal the wounded hearts,
to restore the brokenness of the world,
and to lead us to everlasting peace. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*sin / 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.**

Invitation to the Offering

We have been made capable
of being good stewards of what God has given us.
Let us, with gratitude in our hearts,
give from what has been given to us, by grace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:
Our great Gardener,
we are like trees planted by streams of water
that yield their fruit in season and prosper in you.
We are grateful for all that you have provided,
and we dedicate our firstfruits to you and to the work of your church,
now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 714

“GOD OF THE FERTILE FIELDS”

ITALIAN HYMN

*God of the fer-tile fields,
shap-er of earth that yields our dai-ly bread:
forth from your boun-teous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in ev-ery land be clothed and fed.*

*We would be stew-ards true,
hold-ing in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care,
for peo-ple ev-ery-where, that all may live.*

*As grows the hid-den seed
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.*

*Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours a-bused,
no hum-ble task re-fused your love be-stows.*

*God of the coun-try-side,
dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives a-new
in faith-ful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.*

* Benediction

Go out into the world
endeavoring to be the last of all and the servant of all.
Welcome the children, for in doing so, you welcome Jesus.
Submit yourselves to God, resist all evil;
draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

* Sung Response No. 80 “**YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY**”

(THE TREES OF THE FIELD)

*You shall go out with joy – and be led forth with peace;
the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be-fore you;
there’ll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.*

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Christ Be Beside Me”

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1969

Music: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

“Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)”

Text: Trad. liturgical text

Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. Sing! A New Creation, 2001

Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf

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“God of the Fertile Fields”

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.

Music: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.

Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

“You Shall Go Out with Joy (The Trees of the Field)”

Text: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1975

Music: Stuart Dauermann, 1975

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