



HAS not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

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.)
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 5, 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: Behold, God is doing a new thing.

P: Here. Now. In the midst of our routines.

L: The Holy One who created heaven and earth forms us afresh today.

P: Let our spirits rise to greet our Maker.

All: Let us worship God!

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Good and generous God, you have blessed us with favor
and counted us as your people through our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.
Freed by your grace, let us extend your generosity to others,
sharing our bread with the poor, pleading the cause of the afflicted,
and receiving all who assemble in your name
with the warmth of your love and the riches of your hospitality;
in the good name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

* Hymn No. 401 “HERE IN THIS PLACE (GATHER US IN)”

*Here in this place new light is stream-ing;
now is the dark-ness van-ished a-way;
see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en;
gath-er us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.*

*Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty;
gath-er us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing,
not in some heav-en, light years a-way:
here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.*

*Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and make us your own;
gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

* Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to the Lord
who surrounds us with favor forevermore.

* Prayer of Confession

**God of favor, we have not been true to you.
You have chosen the poor in the world, but we have dishonored them.
You plead the cause of the afflicted, but we crush them.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have favored the rich and despised the poor.
We have dismissed the needy with empty words.
Soften our hearts and make straight our ways.
Heal our unbelief and turn us back to you.**
...(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

The mercy of our God triumphs over judgement
through our glorious Lord Jesus Christ,
who has pleaded our cause, forgiven our sin,
healed our sickness, and delivered us from evil.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:
Healing God, you do all things well.
Illumine our hearts by your Holy Spirit,
that we may receive your words and demonstrate your grace. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Wisdom Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 (*Wise Sayings of Solomon*) Pg. 570

Epistle James 2:1-17 (*Warning against Partiality*) Pg. 215

Gospel Mark 7:24-37 (*The Syrophenician Woman's Faith*) Pg. 40

Sermon: It's Going to be Messy

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith **Apostles' Creed (Trad.)** 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*(With the words "O Lord, plead our cause,"
you are invited to respond "Your name is good.")*

Let us pray to the God of mercy, through our savior,
Jesus Christ, saying,

O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

God our maker,

you surround your people with favor and goodness.

You have chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith

and to inherit your promised kingdom through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who heals the afflicted and sets the oppressed free.

In your mercy, open our mouths in intercession as we bow at your feet
on behalf of the church, the creation, and all those in need.

O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

Open your church to welcome and honor the poor,

meeting their needs with faith-filled deeds of love and generosity.

O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

Uphold the land and those who labor to cultivate it,

that both crops and people may be sustained by your love

and overflow with the blessings of your generous provision.

O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

Establish justice for the poor, relief for the afflicted,

and compassionate care for the physically and mentally ill.

O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

May we respect the dignity of all who struggle,

showing your kindness to those in need.

O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

Open our ears to hear the cry of the poor.

Open our mouths to advocate for the afflicted.

Open our hands to lift up those who are pressed down.
Open our hearts to share generously with those who lack,
especially those we remember now aloud and in our hearts.
O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

Bless the faithful poor and afflicted
who have passed into your presence today
to receive the rich inheritance you have prepared for them
in your kingdom.
O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

We trust in you to do us good
through the excellent name of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. 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

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.
As beloved children, let us be imitators of God,
presenting our gifts as a fragrant offering and sacrifice,
through Christ our Lord.

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 773

“HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT”

*Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their pa-tience,
the scorned to smile, the de-spised to find a friend:
Je-sus is Lord; he has cham-pioned the un-want-ed;
in him in-jus-tice con-fronts its time-ly end.*

*Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their for-tunes,
the proud to fall, the e-lite to tend the least:
Je-sus is Lord; he has shown the mas-ter's priv-ilege:
to kneel and wash ser-vants' feet be-fore they feast.*

*Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great i-de-as,
thoughts of com-pas-sion di-vorced from cries of pain:
Je-sus is Lord; he has mar-ried word and ac-tion;
his cross and com-pa-ny make his pur-pose plain.*

*Heaven shall not wait for tri-um-phant Hal-le-lu-jahs,
when earth has passed and we reach an-oth-er shore:
Je-sus is Lord; in our pres-ent im-per-fec-tion;
his power and love are for now and then for ev-er-more.*

* Benediction

Share your bread with the poor, advocate for the afflicted,
show your faith in acts of kindness, love your neighbor as yourself.

* 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;
they'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

“Here in This Place (Gather Us In)”

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, 1979
Text & Music © 1982 Gia Publications, Inc.

“Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)”

Text: Trad. liturgical text
Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. Sing! A New Creation, 2001
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf
Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

“Heaven Shall Not Wait”

Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987
Music: John L. Bell, 1987
Text and Music © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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

Text: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1975
Music: Stuart Dauermann, 1975
Text and Music © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Co. (admin. Music Services)

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