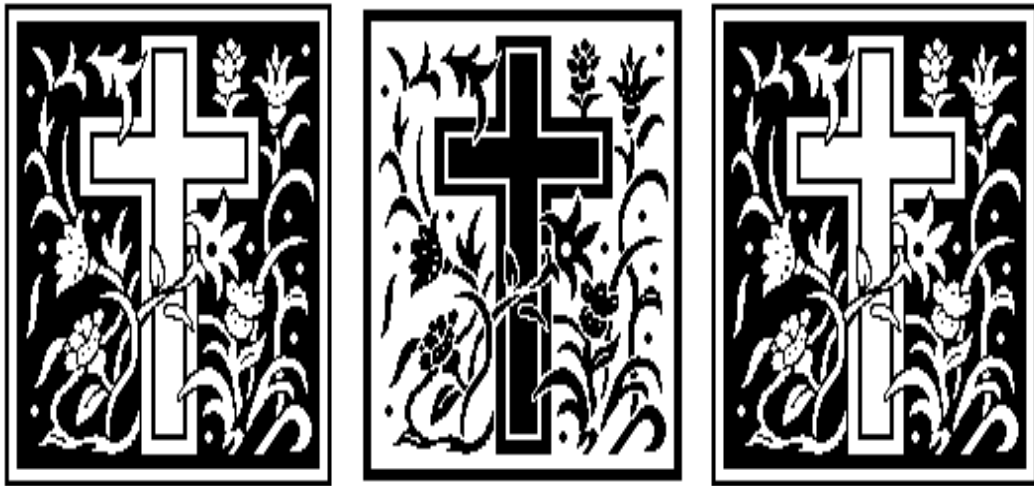


BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

... a welcoming community.



The Third Sunday of Lent

*"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross
and follow me."*

Mark 8:34-35

BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8th, 2026

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The Call to Worship (*from* Psalm 103)

One: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

All: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits--

One: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

All: who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy...

* Hymn # 439

"O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer"

***1. O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
all within me bless God's name;
bless the Savior, and forget not
all God's mercies to proclaim.***

***2. God forgives all your transgressions,
all diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
and with you so kindly deals.***

***3. Far as east from west is distant,
God has put away our sin;
like the pity of a father
has the Lord's compassion been.***

*4. As it was without beginning,
so it lasts without an end;
to their children's children ever
shall God's righteousness extend:*

*5. Unto such as keep God's cov'nant
and are steadfast in God's way;
unto those who still remember
the commandments and obey.*

*6. Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
ever under God's control,
all throughout God's vast dominion;
bless the Lord of all, my soul!*

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, violence, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

* Congregational Response # 437 - "*You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy*"

*You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

* Assurance of Pardon

* Congregational Response # 218 "Ah, Holy Jesus", v. 4

*For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation,
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.*

Children's Moment

Anthem

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Readings

Job 1:1-12 (*Satan Attacks Job's Character*) Old Testament, p. 429

Psalms 95 (*A Call to Worship and Obedience*)

*Cantor: Refrain: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."*

All: Refrain. (For both words & music, please see the insert.)

*Cantor: Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the Rock of our
salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing
psalms to him. (Refrain)*

*Cantor: Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.
(Refrain)*

*Cantor: Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at
Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works." (Refrain)*

John 4:1-42 (*Jesus and the Woman of Samaria*) New Testament, p. 89

Sermon "The Satans in Our Lives" Rev. Beth McCrary

*** Affirmation of Faith** (from "*A Brief Statement of Faith*")

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in

others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* Hymn # 754 *"Help Us Accept Each Other"*

*1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.*

*2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.*

*3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.*

*4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People and 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.

Call to Offering

Offertory

* The Doxology – Hymn # 606 – *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn # 767 *"Together We Serve"*

***1. Together we serve, united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
extending God's love to the last and the least.***

***2. We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.***

***3. We welcome the sarrred, the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.***

*4. Together, by grace, we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.*

* Charge and Benediction

* Response # 802 *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”, v. 3.*

*Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy”

Text: Trad. liturgical text, rev. *The Worshipbook*, 1970

Music: Appalachian folk melody; arr. Richard D. Wetzel, 1972

Text: © 1970 The Westminster Press (*admin. Westminster/John Knox Press*)

Music © 1972 The Westminster Press (*admin. Westminster/John Knox Press*)

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Text: Fred Kaan, 1974

Music: Doreen Potter, 1974

Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

“Together We Serve”

Text and Music: Daniel Charles Damon, 1996

Text and Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

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“O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer”

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

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WEEKLY CALENDAR: March 8th – March 15th

(* *Temporary* Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - Noon)

- **Sunday, March 8th**
 - 9:30 – Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. – Worship (S)
 - Noon – Covered dish lunch (FH)
- **Monday, March 9th**
 - 10-12 noon – Bethel Arts Ministry
 - 10-11 a.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
 - 7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Meeting (FH)
- **Tuesday, March 10th**
 - 11:00 a.m. – Fiber Arts
 - 1-4 p.m. – Vocal Lessons (S)
 - 5-7 p.m. – Girl Scouts
 - **6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Laundry Night Service Project**
- **Wednesday, March 11th**
 - 5:45 p.m. – Choir Practice
 - 7:00 p.m. – Bell Practice
- **Thursday, March 12th**
 - 5:00 p.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
- **Friday, March 13th**
- **Saturday, March 14th**
 - 10-11:30 a.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
 - 2:30-6:00 p.m. – Cub Scouts (FH)
- **Sunday, March 15th**
 - 9:30 – Sunday School
 - 11 a.m. - Worship (S)

**Childcare for infants and pre-school children
is offered from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the nursery.
The Quiet Room is available during worship.**

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for: Jennifer Vandever (*pneumonia, home*); Titus (*struggling in the aftermath of repeated concussions, grandson of Becky Price*); Bill Evans (*hospitalized, uncle of Amy Evans Rourke*); Joni Morgan (*fractured arm*); Marilyn [Gaffin] Zellmer (*leukemia diagnosis*); Kevin (*needs a kidney, Oregon friend of Liz Singley*); Julie Barber (*hip woes*); Brenda Law (*Vernon Law's daughter*); Bill Swindler (*Fred Swindler's brother*); John (*Susan Holton's father*); Sharon Martin (*Elaine Steele's sister-in-law*); prayers for those with economic worries, health concerns, and for those living in the midst of war. Be in prayer for Esther Parish's mother and step-father in Paphos, Cyprus, as the area is under attack from Iran.

Gerald & Sandra Augustus (*brother-in-law & sister of Brenda Bunch*); Don and Una Coffman (*Sycamore Trace*); Rickey Gallaher (*Adam Gallaher's father*); Linda Gerth; Marge Hettrick (*palliative care*); Nancy Landers; Vernon Law; Jeanette McElhinney; Jill McMaster; Anneke Oonk; Earl Price (*Becky Price's husband*); Carrie Vickers; Randy Vickers, Laura Walker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hands Of Mercy Food Pantry Collection

For the month of **March**, we will be collecting **Canned Fruit & Apple Sauce** to support the Hands of Mercy (H.O.M.E.) food pantry. (All non-perishable food items are always gratefully accepted.)

Covered Dish Lunch Today!

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship today for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!



SCAN TO DONATE

FOR ON-LINE DONATIONS TO BETHEL: THANK YOU!