

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
... a welcoming community.



**Whoever pursues
righteousness and
kindness will find
life and honor.**

PROVERBS 21:21, 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.

These may be placed in the offering plate.

**The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
26th Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 2024 - 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

(from Psalm 146)

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

All: **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;**

One: who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

All: **The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

One: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion,
for all generations.

All: **Praise the LORD!**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray: We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have called us to this place to hear the promise of your holy word, to be immersed in the font of your grace, and to drink the cup of your blessing.

Draw us deeper into your presence and then send us out to love and serve; in the name of Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

*For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind de-light,
For the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;
for the great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

* Call to Confession

The proof of God’s amazing love is this:
while we were yet sinners... Christ died for us.
Because we have faith in him,
we may dare to approach God with confidence.
In faith and penitence, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.
Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.**

**In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

- * Sung Response No. 551 **“LORD, HAVE MERCY”**
*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
Hear the good news!
This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Glory be to God! Amen.

- * Sung Response No. 643, v.3 **“NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”**
*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high-est heav-en,
to Fa-ther and to Son and Spir-it now be giv-en:
the one e-ter-nal God, whom heaven and earth a-dore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be ev-er-more.*

THE WORD

Children’s Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

God of life and love, with thankful hearts
we acknowledge our lives to be a gift of your grace,
renewed every morning and nurtured every day in your tender care.

As we pause now to hear your Word,
we pray that you would keep us faithful to the challenges of the Gospel;
and that you would make us a blessing to those our lives will touch,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Prophet	Hosea 11:1-4	(<i>God's Compassion ... Ingratitude</i>)	Pg. 794
Gospel	Matthew 6:19-23	(<i>Concerning Treasures</i>)	Pg. 6
Wisdom	Proverbs 21:21		Pg. 569

Sermon "Pursue Kindness"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith Hymnal – pg. 37, Section 2
*Taken from The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991,
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

* Hymn No. 754

“HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER”

BARONITA

*Help us ac-cept each oth-er as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er, each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, Lord, a-mong us and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed, and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your les-sons, as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may be-come.*

*Let your ac-cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions to do the truth in love;
to prac-tice your ac-cep-tance un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness, and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.*

*Lord, for to-day's en-coun-ters with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance, for jus-tice and for bread,
we need new eyes for see-ing, new hands for hold-ing on:
re-new us with your Spir-it; Lord, free us; make us one!*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

**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

Jesus said: those who wish to be great must become servants to all.
Following his example of humble service,
let us now offer our gifts and our lives to God.

Offertory

* Hymn No. 606 **“PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”**
*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

Let us pray:
Moment by moment your arms embrace us, O God,
with the bountiful gifts of your grace & mercy.
We are mindful each day of how you care for our needs.
We pray that you would be pleased with our worship this day
and that you would receive the offerings we gratefully bring.
May they be used to further the mission Christ brought to the nations
and to enhance his efforts
to bring peace, kindness and justice to all peoples on earth.
In his name we pray. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 307 **“GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”**

CWM RHONDDA

*God of grace and God of glo-ry,
on thy peo-ple pour thy power;
crown thine an-cient chur-ch's sto-ry;
bring its bud to glo-rious flower.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,
for the fac-ing of this hour,
for the fac-ing of this hour.*

*Lo! the hosts of e-vil round us
scorn thy Christ, as-sail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,
for the liv-ing of these days,
for the liv-ing of these days.*

*Cure thy chil-dren's war-ring mad-ness;
bend our pride to thy con-trol;
shame our wan-ton, self-ish glad-ness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,
lest we miss thy king-dom's goal,
lest we miss thy king-dom's goal.*

*Save us from weak res-ig-na-tion to the e-vils we de-plore.
Let the gift of thy sal-va-tion
be our glo-ry ev-er-more.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,
serv-ing thee whom we a-dore,
serv-ing thee whom we a-dore.*

* Charge and Benediction

* Sung Response No. 295, v. 2 “GO TO THE WORLD”

*Go to the world! Go in-to ev-ery place.
Go live the word of God's re-deem-ing grace.
Go seek God's pres-ence in each time and space.
Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.*

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

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

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Text: Fred Kaan, 1974

Music: Doreen Potter, 1974

Text & Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

“Go to the World!”

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1985

Music: Ralph Vaugan Williams, 1906

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

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“For the Beauty of the Earth”

“Now Thank We All Our God”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)”

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

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