

And you also
were included
in Christ
when
you heard
the word of
truth.



Ephesians 1:13

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.
Please put those in the offering plate.

**The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
10th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 13, 2017 - 11:00 AM**

** Indicates congregation standing if able. Parents with infants may remain seated.
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

"ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING"

arr. Hayes

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

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also with you.

L: We have come from different places, different states of mind,
different families to join with one another as we worship God.

**P: We have come in our differences to experience again
the adoption into the family of God that makes us one.**

**All: Let us indeed worship the One who adopts us
and promises us a future.**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

God, our Father and Mother,

we enter this time of worship anxious to feel the movement of your Spirit,
to hear the call of your voice,
to experience the joy of being part of your family.

Move among us that we may know your grace and love this day. Amen.

* Hymn No. 23 **"GOD, YOU SPIN THE WHIRLING PLANETS"** PLEADING SAVIOR

* Call to Confession

We are so used to a world and a life marked by limitation and scarcity that we tend to make those the filters through which we understand faith. God's plan though is limitless and abundant for everyone. Let us confess our limitations asking God for new vision, trusting in the abundance we too often fail to see.

* Prayer of Confession

O God, we like limits and we tend to trust scarcity over abundance because it is so hard to fathom. Give us new vision. Fill us with trust in you, your promises and your grace that overflows. Help us to see the cosmic scale of your love for us and the world you created. And help us to embrace that same love so that we might witness to the abundance of life that comes from you.

...(silent and personal confession) In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

* Sung Response No. 698 **“TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM”**

John L. Bell, 1995

(Sung twice)

***Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.***

* Assurance

We belong to God.
We are God's children who have been lavished with grace and love.
Know this and know that the One who adopted us forgives our limitations and enables us to reach farther, see more clearly and love more deeply.
Know that you belong to God and be at peace. Amen.

* Sung Response No. 583 **“GLORIA, GLORIA”**

Jacques Berthier, 1979

***Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!
Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!***

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Special Music

“Waltz”

by F. Chopin

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

O Spirit of God, guide our hearing of these ancient words to your church.

Enliven them that we may feel the joy of your presence

and participate with you in the gathering up of all things in Christ. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Epistle Ephesians 1:1-14 (*Salutation*)

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Sermon: The Cosmic Church

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

From “A Declaration of Faith”

The church's story with God did not end

with the latest events recorded in Scripture.

Across the centuries the company of believers

has continued its pilgrimage with the Lord of history.

It is a record of faith and faithlessness, glory and shame.

The church has been persecuted by hostile societies,

but it has also known times of privilege and power

when it joined forces with dominant cultures.

It has sought holiness through separation from society,

as well as through involvement in the world's affairs.

It has experienced life-giving reformations.

It has known missionary expansion throughout the world,

but also periods of dwindling resources and influence.

It has divided into rival orders, sects and denominations,

but it has also labored for cooperation and union.

We confess we are heirs of this whole story.

We are charged to remember our past,

**to be warned and encouraged by it, but not to live it again.
Now is the time of our testing
as God's story with the church moves forward through us.
We are called to live now as God's servants
in the service of people everywhere.**

* Hymn No. 850 **“IN A DEEP, UNBOUNDED DARKNESS”** DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Minute for History

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

O God, the one who desires to gather us all up together in Christ,
we offer our prayers for a world that would rather pull everyone apart.
Calm the rhetoric of violence and revenge and dangerous posturing
that is coming from world leaders.
Infuse us all with an appreciation for human life that goes far beyond
any differences we may have across national and political lines.

There is so much we can do together
if we but have the collective will to do so.
And so O God we pray for the people of Yemen
who are suffering an incredible famine.
In a world of abundance, no one should experience starvation.
Help us to more equitably distribute the world's abundance, O God.
We pray for the nations of Kenya and South Africa
as turmoil is churning over leadership and elections.
May peaceful demonstrations prevail and justice reign.
We particularly remember the Grace School in Kenya
and pray that instability will not affect their ability to provide education
and care to vulnerable children in that country.

Gathering God, we pray for our nation
that we might seek understanding across our differences,
that we might put the vulnerable at the top of the policy priority list,
that we might seek the good of all as budgets are developed,
regulations analyzed, and programs evaluated.

O God show us how to gather together in these days of perceived division
that we might witness to the transforming power of your grace.

Hear now our prayers for our community and those closest to us.....

We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, Our Father...

The Lord's Prayer (*sin / sin against us*)

Invitation to the Offering

We belong to God. God chose us before the foundations of the world.
God has gifted us over and over with grace, love and provision.
In response to such good news, let us bring our offerings to God –
gifts that will share God's goodness with those in our community
and around the world.

Offertory

“LORD, WE LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH”

arr. Hayes

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts you so eagerly bestow upon us.

May we faithfully use these gifts offered back to you today

to live into your wide expansive vision of life for all of creation.

In the name of Jesus, our brother, we pray, Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 263 **“ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME!”** CORONATION

* Benediction

The Lord be with you....and also with you.

Go into the world proclaiming the good news of God’s gracious future.

Go living your life in such a way that the whole world

knows the blessings we have experienced.

* Sung Response **“SONG OF HOPE”**

ARGENTINA

*May the God of hope go with us ev-ery day,
Fill-ing all our lives with love and joy and peace.*

*May the God of jus-tice speed us on our way,
Bring-ing light and hope to ev-ery land and race.*

*Pray-ing, let us work for peace, Sing-ing, share our joy with all,
Work-ing for a world that’s new, Faith-ful when we hear Christ’s call.*

* Postlude