

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

October 8, 2017

*“And how are they to believe in (Him)
of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without
someone to proclaim Him?
(Romans 10:14)*

*Thank You
Reverend*

*May God bless you as you continue to guide us
into a deeper relationship
with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

**The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 8, 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

"BE THOU MY VISION"

arr. Ben Logan

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

L: This past week, just like others, has been full of disheartening news, terrible tragedies, personal losses and confounding realities.

P: **It has also been full of encouraging support, celebrations of life, and an outpouring of joy.**

L: We bring all of our joys and our sadness with us this morning as we worship God.

P: **We bring all of ourselves trusting in God's steadfast love and mercy.**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

O God, your faithfulness is a steady force in our lives that often seem chaotic and overly full.

Our faith waivers when the waves of change come, but you come close and provide what we need.

In this time of worship give us trusting hearts to believe your promises and your goodness come what may. Amen.

* Hymn No. 49

"THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE"

LEONI

* Call to Confession

We confess our sin, those things that separate us from God and one another, not to have our worst confirmed but to have our best liberated.

We confess not out of a sense of guilt but a desire for wholeness in our lives and the life of the world.

Join me in the quest for liberation and wholeness as we confess our sin together.

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

O God we confess that we want daily bread to come in weekly supplies. We want some measure of control and certainty about tomorrow and so we fail to trust your guidance of gathering only what we need for today. We fail to share because we trust scarcity more than abundance. Forgive our failures, O God. Restore our trust in your abundant care and goodness that we might live securely and generously as your people in the world.

...(silent and personal confession) Amen.

* Sung Response

“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.

* Assurance

God’s love is steadfast and sure. God’s grace and forgiveness are certainties on which we can rely. Know that God has forgiven our failures and even now restores us and renews us that we might indeed trust God and witness to the generosity we experience. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Sung Response

“HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJA”

Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal-le-lu-ja!

Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal-le-lu-ja!

Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal-le-lu-ja!

Hal-le-lu-ya! Hal-le-lu-ya!

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem

“THE JOURNEY HOME”

by John Purifoy

Illumination No. 455 “LISTEN TO THE WORD THAT GOD HAS SPOKEN”

(sung twice)

Readings from Scripture

Torah Exodus 16:1-8 (*Bread from Heaven*)

Pg. 60

Sermon: Hidden Dangers

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

From “A Declaration of Faith”

In his concern for justice in the social order

God has never forgotten the needs of individuals.

In the end the Lord will judge all persons

by the simple, unremembered acts of kindness

they did or failed to do

for the least of their sisters and brothers.

We acknowledge God is at work here and now

when people show personal concern for each other

and work to make helping agencies,

including the church itself, more compassionate.

We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort

in compassion for our neighbors.

We are to give to them and receive from them,

accepting everyone we meet as a person;

to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind;

to help and accept help

in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility.

We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving,

for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

Minute for History

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

How long, O God? How long?

Our hearts are so full of grief and sadness and anger it feels they may burst.

Hearts should be filled to overflowing with love and joy.

Things are desperately wrong O God.

We say we know that violence begets violence

yet we seem not to have the collective will to stop the violence
in our nation or our world.

People died this week in Las Vegas and Syria from violence.

Things are desperately wrong.

Our hearts are full of grief and sadness.

O Lord, we offer our prayers

for the families of those who died in Las Vegas, those who are injured
and those who have helped save others.

We offer prayers for those who continue to help in Puerto Rico,
those who have lost everything and struggle to survive day to day.

We offer prayers for the latest victims of violence in Syria.

O God we pray for your comfort, strength and peace for those who suffer
and we pray for your wisdom that we might have discerning hearts
to know how to work with you and each other to create a world
where daily violence and disaster is no longer the norm.

As we begin a week where school is out,

we pray traveling mercies for those who may be on the road.

May families find rest and renewal, teachers recover sleep and energy,
students experience the joy of staying up late and sleeping in.

We give you thanks O God for times of rest and fun.

O God hear now the concerns of our hearts:

We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray,
Our Father...

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

Invitation to the Offering

Even when we complain, God responds without anger and meets our needs, giving us more than we ever asked for. In this moment of worship, as we experience again the abundance of God's grace and love let us offer ourselves and our resources to God trusting that God will guide us in using these gifts for the good of the whole community.

Offertory

“OUR GREAT SAVIOR”

arr. Larry Pugh

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

Dear God we are grateful for the grace, mercy and love you show us each and every day. We offer these gifts to you seeking to share what we have for the sake of the world. Bless and accept our offerings we pray. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 726 **“WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME”**

KELVINGROVE

* Benediction

It's a dangerous thing to trust God's abundance in a world that idolizes scarcity. It's a dangerous thing to take only what you need in a world where the motto is "never enough." But then again following the footsteps of the Crucified one has always been a bit dangerous. Live Dangerously in the abundant blessings of God, creator, redeemer and sustainer – who rains down bread from heaven for each of us this day and every day. Amen.

* Sung Response **“LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING”**

ASH GROVE

*Let all things now liv-ing a song of thank-giv-ing
to God our Cre-a-tor tri-um-phant-ly raise;
who fash-ioned and made us, pro-tect-ed and stayed us,
by guid-ing us on to the end of our days.
God's ban-ners are o'er us; pure light goes be-fore us,
a pil-lar of fire shin-ing forth in the night:
till shad-ows have van-ished, all fearfulness ban-ished,
as for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light.*

* Postlude **“TODAY WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES”**

Jason Krug