



Blessed are
those who
hunger and
thirst for
righteousness,
for they will
be filled.

Matthew 5:6

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.)
4th Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023 - 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

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

L: Come let us praise the Lord!

P: Let us shout our songs of thanksgiving to Almighty God.

L: For God has done wonderful things for us.

P: God's love and blessings have been showered upon us.

L: Come, let us praise the Lord!

P: Let us sing songs of great joy to God.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ

to rescue us from slavery and lead us out of captivity.

Guide us by the wisdom of the cross,

and show us how to live a life of justice, love, and blessedness. Amen

*Come, thou al-might-y King,
help us thy name to sing; help us to praise:
Fa-ther, all glo-ri-ous, o'er all vic-to-ri-ous,
come, and reign o-ver us, An-cient of Days.*

*Come, thou in-car-nate Word,
mer-ci-ful, might-y Lord, our prayer at-tend.
Come, and thy peo-ple bless, and give thy word suc-cess;
Spir-it of ho-li-ness, on us de-scend.!*

*Come, ho-ly Com-fort-er,
thy sa-cred wit-ness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who al-might-y art, now rule in ev-ery heart,
and ne'er from us de-part, Spir-it of power.*

*To thee, great One in Three,
e-ter-nal prais-es be, hence ev-er-more!
Thy sov-ereign maj-es-ty may we in glo-ry see,
and to e-ter-ni-ty love and a-dore.*

* Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins,
for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**God, we have not done what is blameless and right,
nor spoken truth from the heart with love.**

**We do not keep your word,
and when we participate in gossip,
our words and deeds cause pain.**

**Forgive us by the power of your mercy,
that we might stand in the goodness of Christ
and walk in the light of his love. Amen.**

* Sung Response No 575 **“LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US”**

KYRIE ELEISON

*Lord, have mer-cy up-on us;
Christ, have mer-cy up-on us;
Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.*

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven by the faith of Christ,
who chose love over hatred and forgiveness over blame.

Rejoice and be glad, for God’s mercy is great;

Jesus brings healing, justice, and peace.

* Sung Response **“GLORY BE TO THE FATHER”**

Avery & Marsh, 1967

*Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and the Son, and the Ho-ly Ghost;
As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be,
world with-out end. A-men. As it was in the be-gin-ning,
is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.
A-men. A-men. A-men. A-men.
A-men. A-men. A-men.*

THE WORD

Children’s Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, your blessings are abundant,
and your wisdom exceeds our grasp.

Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day,
that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers,
sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted,
and revealing to all your glory. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Prophet	Micah 6:1-8	<i>(God Challenges Israel)</i>	Pg. 816
Wisdom	Psalms 15	<i>(Who shall Abide in God's Sanctuary)</i>	Pg. 469
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12	<i>(The Beatitudes)</i>	Pg. 4

Sermon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15*

**God's sovereign love is a mystery
beyond the reach of the human mind.**

**Human thought ascribes to God
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.**

**But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ
by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful men and women.**

**The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator
who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding,
help us to grow as a people of blessing
as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We pray for those who mourn;
may they know the comfort of your abiding presence.

We pray for the meek; may they receive the goodness of your earth.

We pray for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness;
may they be filled with goodness.

We pray for those who are merciful; may they also receive mercy.

We pray for the pure in heart; may they see you face to face.

We pray for the peacemakers; may they be recognized as your children.

We pray for those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness;
may they know the protection of your realm.

We rejoice this day and give thanks for the many blessings of this life
and for the gift of heaven which is ours even now.

May we, with your prophets from all the ages,
have the wisdom to pursue your truth
and the courage to do what is holy and right.

We ask all this in the name of Christ,
who is our light and our life. Amen.

Let us pray for God's rule on earth as Jesus taught us:

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

Hymnal pg. 35

**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

With what shall we come before the Lord this day?

We come with a love of justice and a passion for sharing Christ's love.

Let us walk in humble gratitude,

offering to God a portion of the gifts that God freely shares with us,
gifts for the healing of the world.

Offertory

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

* Prayer of Dedication

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us
with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world.
May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love
as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 749 “COME! LIVE IN THE LIGHT!” (*WE ARE CALLED*)

*Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the king-dom,
to live in the free-dom of the cit-y of God!*

*We are called to act with jus-tice;
we are called to love ten-der-ly;
we are called to serve one an-oth-er,
to walk hum-bly with God.*

*Come! O-pen your heart!
Show your mer-cy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hope-less
so ha-tred and vio-lence will be no more.*

*We are called to act with jus-tice;
we are called to love ten-der-ly;
we are called to serve one an-oth-er,
to walk hum-bly with God.*

*Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each oth-er
as sis-ters and broth-ers u-nit-ed in love!*

*We are called to act with jus-tice;
we are called to love ten-der-ly;
we are called to serve one an-oth-er,
to walk hum-bly with God.*

* Benediction

In the spirit of the beatitudes,
commit to leading a life of blessing,
living in compassion, simplicity, and peace.

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine brightly on your path
as you walk the way of justice and peace.

And the blessing of God—
the Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life—
bless you and keep you always.

* Sung Response No. 744 “**ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME!**”

*A-rise your light is come! The Spir-it’s call o-bey;
show forth the glo-ry of your God, which shines on you to-day.*

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: J. Christopher Pardini, 2005

Music © 2011 Birnamwood Publications (a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.)

“Glory Be to the Father”

Music © 1967 by Hope Publishing Company

“Come! Live in the Light!”

(We Are Called)

Text & Music: David Haas, 1988

Textand Music © 1988 Gia Publications, Inc.

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 2004

Music: Caribbean folk melody; arr. Jorge Lockward, 2001

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Music Arr. © 2001 Jorge Lockward

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Come, Thou Almighty King

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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