



**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.)**  
**Ascension of the Lord**  
**May 21, 2023 - 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 (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,

**P: for God reigns over all the earth!**

L: God has gone up with a shout!

**P: Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

O God of glory, sovereign of all nations,  
the risen and ascended Christ calls us  
to carry your message of life to all people.

Led by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
may we witness always to the hope to which we are called  
as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. Amen.

*Come, Chris-tians, join to sing:  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
Loud praise to Christ our King:  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
be-fore his throne re-joice;  
praise is his gra-cious choice:  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!*

*Come, lift your hearts on high:  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
Let prais-es fill the sky:  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
He is our guide and friend;  
To us he'll con-de-scend;  
his love shall nev-er end:  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!*

*Praise yet our Christ a-gain,  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
Life shall not end the strain:  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
On heav-en's bliss-ful shore  
his good-ness we'll a-dore,  
sing-ing for-ev-er-more:  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!*

\* Call to Confession

Jesus tells us that repentance and forgiveness  
is to be offered in his name.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to God,  
who assures us of new life  
through the power of Christ's redeeming love.

\* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Living God,**

**we confess that our faith is sometimes weak,  
our love for others can be faint,  
our prayers are often timid,  
and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing.**

**When we stand looking toward heaven,  
yet feel far from you,**

**you draw near in mercy to forgive us,  
and fill us with your power,**

**through the grace of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

\* Sung Response No. 577     **“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 of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, as Christ is our witness,  
God's power to pardon is immeasurable.

Therefore, proclaim this good news to the ends of the earth:  
through the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven.

\* Sung Response No. 587     **“ALLELUIA!”**

*Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

## THE WORD

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Come Holy Spirit,

open our minds to see the power of Scripture to give life;  
enlighten our hearts that we might see Christ in all whom we meet;  
in the name of the one, holy, and living God,  
to whom we give all glory. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Wisdom	Psalm 47	<i>(God's Rule over the Nations)</i>	Pg. 490
Gospel	Luke 24:44-53	<i>(The Jesus Appears to His Disciples)</i>	Pg. 85
History	Acts 1:1-11	<i>(The Promise of the Holy Spirit)</i>	Pg. 110

Sermon

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\* Affirmation of Faith

**Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised him from the dead.**

**The risen Lord appeared to his followers.**

**They recognized him as their Master who had been crucified.**

**Before Jesus left them, he commissioned them**

**to proclaim to all people the good news of his victory over death,  
and promised to be with them always.**

**We are certain that Jesus lives.**

**He lives as God with us,**

**touching all of human life with the presence of God.**

**He lives as one of us with God.**

**Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love,  
we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.**

**We declare that Jesus is Lord.**

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People

Let us not cease to give thanks to God  
who has seated the resurrected and ascended Christ  
at the right hand of the Holy One in power and great glory.

*(With the words “O risen God”,  
you are invited to respond “**fill us with your power.**”)*

We give thanks to you, O God, in this and every age,  
for the healing power at work in Christ  
to fill our world with grace.

O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

We pray for our world, for all leaders, people, and nations,  
that they we may exercise a spirit of wisdom  
as we serve the common good.

Shield all who suffer from the terrors of violence and war;  
bring them to safety and new life in you.

Make us one family gathered up in your love  
and clothed in the power of your peace.

O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

We pray for all who long to experience  
the immeasurable power of your love.

Open our hearts to sing your praises  
and to share the story of your blessing,  
that all may come to know our living and ascended Christ.

O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

Bless your people everywhere with food, shelter, healthcare,  
and employment sufficient for our flourishing,  
that all may thrive together by the riches of your grace,  
and fill us with a joy for justice  
that inspires us to do our part for the prosperity of all.

O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

We pray for all in sickness or in need,  
that they may know your healing love  
and the power of Christ to bring life in the most difficult times.  
Keep us mindful of the hope and great power that we have in you  
as we offer your healing to others.

O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

We pray for all who have died, that, together,  
you will bring us to our glorious inheritance of Christ,  
the one who fills all in all.

O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

All this we pray in the name of him who was raised  
to live and reign in power for us,  
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

God has given us the gift of Christ,  
risen and ascended for the life of the world.  
Therefore, let us offer our gifts in return,  
that others may know this glorious news.

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

O God of all glory and majesty,  
we give you thanks for the gift of your Son,  
and his power at work in our lives and our gifts.

Bless these gifts for the benefits they afford  
in bringing life to others in your name.

Bless our lives that we may be your witnesses to the end of the earth  
as we love and serve you, O God most high. Amen.

#### THE SENDING FORTH

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

CORONATION

*All hail the power of Je-sus’ name!  
Let an-gels pros-trate fall;  
bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem,  
and crown him Lord of all!  
Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem,  
and crown him Lord of all!*

*Ye cho-sen seed of Is-rael’s race,  
ye ran-somed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace,  
and crown him Lord of all!  
Hail him who saves you by his grace,  
and crown him Lord of all!*



*Let ev-ery kin-dred, ev-ery tribe  
on this ter-res-trial ball  
to him all maj-es-ty as-cribe,  
and crown him Lord of all!  
To him all maj-es-ty as-cribe,  
and crown him Lord of all!*

*O that with yon-der sa-cred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song,  
and crown him Lord of all!  
We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song,  
and crown him Lord of all!*

\* Charge

God's Spirit is poured out upon us  
to make our hearts strong with love and bold with praise  
that we may proclaim God's Son to the ends of the earth.

\* Blessing

May the glory of God fill you with praise,  
the beauty of Christ strengthen you in service,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace.

\* Sung Response No. 243 "BE NOT AFRAID"

*Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy!  
Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!  
Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy!  
Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!*

\* Postlude

## MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. Sing! A New Creation, 2001

Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf

Music Arr. © Faith Alive Christian Resources

“Alleluia!”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: Fintan O’Carroll, 1981;

Harm. Christopher Walker, 1985

Music © 1985 Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker (Published by OCP)

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

Text: Stanzas 1-3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780;

stanzas 2-3, alt. John Rippon, 1787;

stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787

Music: Oliver Holden, 1793; desc. Michael E. Young, 1979

Music Desc. © GIA Publications, Inc.

“Be Not Afraid”

Text: Taizé Community, 1998

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1998

Text & Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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