



Abide
IN ME
AS I
Abide
IN
YOU.



John 15:4, NKJV

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church Outdoor & Online
5th Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021 – 11:00 AM

Congregational responses indicated in bold.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

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

L: In the wilderness, water brings life.

P: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

L: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

P: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

L: In the bread and the wine,
the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

P: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

L: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds,
the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

Prayer of Invocation

Wondrous Vinegrower,
you make all things new in water and Word,
feeding your people with love, joy, and peace.

Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings.

Teach us to love what you have commanded
and to prune what does not nourish your creation,
in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*The day of res-ur-rec-tion!
Earth, tell it out a-broad,
the Pass-o-ver of glad-ness,
the Pass-o-ver of God.
From death to life e-ter-nal,
from sin's do-min-ion free,
our Christ has brought us o-ver
with hymns of vic-to-ry.*

*Let hearts be purged of e-vil
that we may see a-right
the Lord in rays e-ter-nal
of res-ur-rec-tion light,
and lis-tening to his ac-cents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hear-ing,
may raise the vic-tor strain.*

*Now let the heavens be joy-ful;
let earth its song be-gin;
the round world keep high tri-umph
and all that is there-in.*

*Let all things seen and un-seen
their notes in glad-ness blend,
for Christ the Lord has ris-en,
our joy that has no end.*

Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God,
let us confess to God and to one another
our failure to love our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit.

We have not loved others as you have loved us.

We have denied the promises of baptism

and cut ourselves off from you.

Forgive us, restore us,

that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Sung Response

“LORD, HAVE MERCY”

LAND OF REST

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

You have already been cleansed

by the word that God has spoken to you.

In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ,

as branches to a vine.

Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Sung Response

“ALLELUIA!”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

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

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

Prayer for Illumination

Come Holy Spirit,

that through your word we may be guided

into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

Reading from Scripture

Wisdom Psalm 22:24-31

(Plea for Deliverance ...)

Epistle 1 John 4:17-21

(God Is Love)

Gospel John 15:1-8

(Jesus the True Vine)

Sermon: “Abide in Love”

The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and life everlasting. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Offering

Offering what we have for the sake of others
is a discipline of pruning – letting go of our possessions,
our time, and even ourselves –
to extend the gospel witness into the world.
Be generous in your ministry of giving.
You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

Prayer of Dedication

Through our offerings, O God, give your loving Spirit
to a world in need of comfort.
Make our many gifts one offering for the world;
in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

He was always the guest.
In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary,
Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.
At the meal tables of the wealthy
where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest.

Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people,
welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host.

Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him,
those who want to follow him must first be fed by him,
those who would wash his feet
must first let him make them clean.

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished;
this is the time when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith,
for a better life, for a fairer world.

Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables,
now invites us to be guests at his.

Great Thanksgiving (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, for you made us,
and before us, you made the world we inhabit,
and before the world, you made the eternal home
in which, through Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular, and all that is plain have their origin in you;
all that is lovely, and all who are loving
point to you as their fulfillment.

And grateful as we are for the world we know
and the universe beyond our knowing,
we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain,
for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life, which informs our living,
for his compassion, which changes our hearts,
for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities,
for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering,

his fearless dying, his rising to life and breathing forgiveness,
we praise you and worship him.

Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit,
who even yet, even now,
confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness.

Therefore we gladly join our voices
to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And now, lest we believe
that our praise alone fulfills your purpose,
we fall silent and remember him who came
because words weren't enough.

Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside,
emptying our hearts, and bringing nothing in our hands,
we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting,
the forgiving that Christ alone can offer.

Merciful God, send now, in kindness,
your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and cup
and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us,
converting us from the patterns of this passing world,
until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude
for this moment, this meal, these people,
we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us,
enable much by us, encourage many through us.

So Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

*Let us tal-ents and tongues em-ploy,
reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
bread is bro-ken; the wine is poured;
Christ is spo-ken and seen and heard.*

*Je-sus lives a-gain;
earth can breathe a-gain;
pass the Word a-round:
loaves a-bound!*

*Christ is a-ble to make us one;
at the ta-ble he set the tone,
teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless,
love in word and in deed ex-press.*

*Je-sus lives a-gain;
earth can breathe a-gain;
pass the Word a-round:
loaves a-bound!*

*Je-sus calls us in, sends us out
Bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Im-man-u-el) ev-ery-where!*

*Je-sus lives a-gain;
earth can breathe a-gain;
pass the Word a-round:
loaves a-bound!*

Benediction

Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed,
securely abiding as branches of the true vine.

Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you
by the One who never lets you go.

Seek out those who abound with sacred questions,
and be ready to answer a mystery with love.

Sung Response

“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!

(Repeat)

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer

Song Leader: Dianne Griffith

Sound: Adam Badger

Video: Jake Horton

“The Day of Resurrection!”

Text: John of Damascus, 8th cent.;

trans. John Mason Neale, 1862, alt.

Music: Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

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

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“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)

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Text: Fred Kaan, 1975

Music: Jamaican folk melody; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

Text & Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

“Be Not Afraid”

Text: Taizé Community, 1998

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1998

Text and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé

(admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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