



**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.)  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 12, 2021 - 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: Look at the heavens!

**P: They are shouting the glory of God.**

L: The days and the nights declare the magnificence  
of God's creative works.

**P: Their voice goes through all the earth  
and their words reach the ends of the world.**

L: Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

**P: Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

It says in the Bible, O God, that you created the world through your Word.

Your Word is powerful! And so are our words.

They can heal, create a smile, be a declaration of love;  
but they can also hurt and destroy a sense of self-worth.

Give us your wisdom, God of the Word,

so that as a church and as individuals,

we use our words to build up and not to destroy. Amen.

\* Hymn No. 265      **“JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE’ER THE SUN”**

*Je-sus shall reign wher-e’er the sun  
does its suc-ces-sive jour-neys run;  
his king-dom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

*To him shall end-less prayer be made,  
and prais-es throng to crown his head;  
his name, like sweet per-fume, shall rise  
with ev-ery morn-ing sac-ri-fice.*

*Peo-ple and realms of ev-ery tongue  
dwell on his love with sweet-est song,  
and in-fant voic-es shall pro-claim  
their ear-ly bless-ings on his name.*

*Bless-ings a-bound wher-e’er he reigns:  
the pris-oners leap to loose their chains;  
the wea-ry find e-ter-nal rest,  
and all who suf-fer want are blest.*

*Let ev-ery crea-ture rise and bring  
hon-ors pe-cu-liar to our King;  
an-gels de-scend with songs a-gain,  
and earth re-peat the loud A-men!*

\* Call to Confession

Because we have experienced God’s mercy,  
let us use our voices to declare those things  
we have said and done that have separated us from God,  
and from each other, that we may know God’s forgiveness.

\* Prayer of Confession

**You have called us, O God, and we have refused to listen;  
you have stretched out your hand and we have not taken it.**

**We have taken what you have given us  
and used those gifts to hurt others and defy you.**

**We have refused to be tamed by your wisdom.**

**Forgive our inability to recognize you  
and live out the reality of your gospel.**

**Give us the insight we need to understand your place in our lives  
so that our words and actions reflect the glory of God  
in the lives of others. In the name of the Messiah we pray.**

*...(silent and personal confession) Amen.*

\* Sung Response No. 577     **“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.*

\* Declaration of Forgiveness

The law of the Lord is perfect, and it revives the soul;

the decrees of the Lord are sure and make wise the simple;

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear, and it enlightens the eyes.

Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ, the living Word, we are forgiven.

Live in peace!

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts

be acceptable to you, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Wisdom	Proverbs 1:20-33	<i>(The Call of Wisdom)</i>	Pg. 552
Epistle	James 3:1-12	<i>(Taming the Tongue)</i>	Pg. 216
Gospel	Mark 8:27-38	<i>(Peter's Declaration about Jesus)</i>	Pg. 41

Sermon: Dangerous Words

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\* Affirmation of Faith

**We are the People of God.**

**We are a sign of the New World.**

**We believe in God.**

**We believe in the goodness of God,  
the presence of God in human history,  
and the nearness of God's love.**

**We believe in Christ.**

**We believe that God was and is revealed in human life,  
that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing,  
that out of death comes new life.**

**We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who moves among God's people  
and invites the world into God's reign.**

**We believe that the world can change,  
that peace and wholeness can come,  
and that the New World can arrive.**

**We are the people of God. We are the sign of the New World.**

**We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the People

We pray for wisdom, that we may communicate effectively  
with love, shalom, and compassion  
and strive to live in connectedness and understanding.

We pray for courage so that we may live out our faith  
giving witness with our words and actions that you are the Messiah.

We pray for the will to take up the cross and to follow  
wherever you may lead.

And we pray for love, your love in us  
so that we may live with the intentionality to know each other by name  
and have the deep relationships that you want us to have  
with you and with each other.

Through Jesus Christ, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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

**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.**

## Invitation to the Offering

God has given us the sun and made us stewards of all creation.

God has given us our lives and our very beings.

Let us give to God, from what God has given us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of wisdom,

may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need.

Guide us as we administer the gifts that you have given us  
for the building of your kingdom.

In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

\* Hymn No. 693

“THOUGH I MAY SPEAK”

O WALY WALY

*Though I may speak with brav-est fire,  
and have the gift to all in-spire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sound-ing brass, and hope-less gain.*

*Though I may give all I pos-sess,  
and striv-ing so my love pro-fess,  
but not be giv'n by love with-in,  
the prof-it soon turns strange-ly thin.*

*Come, Spir-it, come, our hearts con-trol,  
our spir-its long to be made whole.  
Let in-ward love guide ev-ery deed;  
by this we wor-ship and are freed.*

\* Benediction

Encourage the fainthearted; help the weak; be patient with all;  
seek to do good; rejoice always; pray without ceasing;  
give thanks in all circumstances.

And so may the God of peace sanctify you wholly;  
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound  
at the coming of Jesus Christ. Amen.

\* Sung Response No. 80 **“YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY”** THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be-fore you;  
they’ll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.  
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.*

\* Postlude

### MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Music: Attr. John Hattton, c. 1793

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“Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)”

Text: Trad. liturgical text

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

Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf

Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

“Though I May Speak”

Text: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Music: English folk melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Text and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company

“You Shall Go Out with Joy (The Trees of the Field)”

Text: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1975

Music: Stuart Dauermann, 1975

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