

Queen Esther Saves Her People



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.)
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 26, 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: God has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows and runs upon it.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

P: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Holy Spirit of God, who gathers the church into one body,
gather us once again in your presence

and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together.

Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service
that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world.

Teach us to show compassion for those in need,
to face challenges with imagination,

and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust.

So may your church bring forth your will and your reign. Amen.

*When morn-ing gilds the skies,
my heart a-wak-ing cries:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
A-like at work and prayer
to Je-sus I re-pair:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!*

*Does sad-ness fill my mind?
A so-lace here I find:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earth-ly bliss?
My com-fort still is this:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!*

*Let earth's wide cir-cle round
in joy-ful notes re-sound:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height re-ply:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!*

*Be this, while life is mine,
my can-ti-cle di-vine:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
Be this the e-ter-nal song
Through all the a-ges long:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!*

* Call to Confession

Because we haven't gotten it all right;
because we have missed the mark, we confess,
trusting God's mercy and forgiveness to make us new.

* Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we confess that our hearts are closed tight
against your love and mercy.**

**We hold on to unlove for ourselves,
resentment against those for whom we care,
anger at our helplessness,
and complicity in the structures of society.**

**We have protected ourselves emotionally, socially, and spiritually;
and our selfishness has nourished the pain of the world
rather than its hope. Open, loosen, and unbind us, God.**

**Enable our frozen hearts to love, our clenched hands to help,
and our stifled spirits to breath and pray,
in the name of Christ Jesus.**

...(silent and personal confession) Amen.

* Sung Response No. 577 **“KYRIE ELEISON”**

(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.

GHANIAN KYRIE

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Trust in God's grace that has claimed you
and God's mercy that has forgiven you.

You are a new creation. Thanks be to God, Amen.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Your Word is our salt;

without it, we lose our being, our joy, and our ability to endure.

Open our hearts and our minds to listen,

to really listen, to your Word today. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Wisdom Psalm 124 (*Thanksgiving for Israel's Deliverance*) Pg. 540

History Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 (*Mordecai's Advancement*) Pg. 427

Sermon: "For Such a Time"

The Reverend Dr. Wendy Neff

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

Loving God, who creates us into new be-ing each day,
help us to discover your purpose for our lives
and to seek our roles in fulfilling this purpose.

We praise you for your creation of our lives day by day,
for your re-creation of hope within us, even when hope seems foolish.

We pray for this world of ours,
in which cynical self-interest and grasping for power
often seem to be the rules by which human being live.

We confess our responsibility for those thoughts and actions
by which we further the powers of evil and destruction in our world,
for we know finally that becoming human is a process of reconciliation
and not of separation, of trust and not of suspicion,
of communion and not of coercion.

We accept your call to peacemaking, wherever we may be
and in whatever situation we find the hatreds, the fears, or the distrusts
which cry out for peace to heal and to mend the brokenness.

Help us each to offer thanks to you, not in empty words or pious gestures,
but in lives which are faithful to your call.

Enable us to bear the fruits of thankfulness in serving others
and in building community with the men, women,
and young persons in our lives.

May we reach out to these persons, supporting them in their struggles
and celebrating with them their joys and victories.

May we also accept the love and friendship offered to us by others,
as we confess and acknowledge our needs, our weaknesses,
our times of despair and hopelessness.

We see your loving purpose in these expressions of human concern;
we feel your loving touch healing us and caring for us
as a child is cared for by a parent.

Especially, today, reach out and touch _____;

be with them in their time of illness and suffering.

We lift up in prayer to you these friends from our congregation
that you may bring healing and wholeness to their lives.

We know that you are with us and for us in the midst of our lives.

We praise you for this constant love and in Jesus' name we offer together
the prayer of our Savior:

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

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

May our offering be an act of gratitude given from a merciful heart.

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

Our spiritual ancestors offered sacrifices to glorify you, O God;
so would we honor you by these gifts.

May they express the depth of our love for you.

As your church, we put them to work on your behalf
in programs of outreach toward those who long for meaning
as well as for life's other necessities.

Grant your joy to all who give and all who receive. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 761 “CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST’S SERVICE”

BEECHER

*Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice,
called to min-is-tries of grace,
we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of shar-ing,
side by side and friend with friend,
e-qual part-ners in our car-ing
to ful-fil God's cho-sen end.*

*Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering,
rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er,
all God's peo-ple, young and old,
blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er
to ful-fil God's cho-sen end.*

*Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion,
in a small or glob-al sense,
help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens,
break-ing down each wall or fence.
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion,
words of chal-lenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for ac-tion,
make us col-leagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for to-mor-row
ways to or-der hu-man life
that sur-round each per-son's sor-row
with a calm that con-quers strife.
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing,
our com-pas-sion to in-crease,
mes-sen-gers of faith thus giv-ing
hope and con-fi-dence and peace.*

* Benediction

Go into the world with faith, trusting all to receive you.
Go into the world with hope—with God’s will before you
and great dreams in your heart.
Go into the world with love—love for all people:
serving with those in whom Christ lives
and laboring for those for whom Christ died;
and the faithfulness of God,
the hope which quickens God’s Spirit within us,
and the love of Christ be with us all. 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;
there’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

Minister: The Reverend Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Yeaworth Sound: Adam Badger Video: Jake Horton

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“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

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

Text: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

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

Text: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1975

Music: Stuart Dauermann, 1975

Text and Music © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Co. (admin. Music Services)

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“When Morning Gilds the Skys”

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