



Bethel

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

*Timeless Truths for our
Changing Community*

Organized 1764

Mission: “Bethel Presbyterian Church exists as a fellowship of believers to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20). Together, we strive to glorify our sovereign Lord through vibrant, God-centered worship; to build up one another by teaching God’s infallible Word; to equip every member for works of service; and to be salt and light by proclaiming the gospel in word and deed.”

Vision: All for the glory of God, Bethel Presbyterian Church will be a faithful resource church that is healthy and growing in order to multiply God’s kingdom locally, regionally, and internationally. We have a vision to reach and make disciples in our community and to further multiply gospel mission by equipping our leaders and our congregation for ministry and facilitating assimilation into the body of Christ.

Celebrating God’s Faithfulness...Advancing His Kingdom!

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

The Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, February 21, 2021

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

Adoration

***The Call to Worship** Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." NIV

***The Hymn of Adoration**

“Holy, Holy, Holy!”

Trinity Hymnal #100

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The Invocation and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***The Hymn of Praise**

“All Must Be Well”

Through the love of God our Savior, All will be well;
Free and changeless is His favor, All is well;
Precious is the blood that healed us, Perfect is the grace that sealed us,
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us, All must be well.

Though we pass through tribulation, All will be well;
Ours is such a full salvation, All is well;
Happy still in God confiding, Fruitful if in Christ abiding,
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding, All must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow, All will be well;
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, All is well;
On our Father's love relying, Jesus ev'ry need supplying,
Yes in living or in dying, All must be well.

The Affirmation of Faith**Westminster Confession of Faith 5.5***

WCF 5.5 (Of Providence) - *The most wise, righteous, and gracious God doth oftentimes leave, for a season, his own children to manifold temptations, and the corruption of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, that they may be humbled; and, to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon himself, and to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin, and for sundry other just and holy ends.*

Scripture Reading**Psalm 115:1-15**

Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see. They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell. They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. O house of Israel, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield. You who fear him, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield. The LORD remembers us and will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron, he will bless those who fear the LORD—small and great alike. May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children. May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. NIV

Individual & Corporate Confession

Holy and merciful God, in Your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways. In wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease You. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in Your light, and walk in Your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. This we pray, in His name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. NIV

Collection

Offertory Scripture & Giving of Our Lord's Tithes Hebrews 13:15-16

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. NIV

Offertory Anthem

***Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Consecration

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlakte

Painful Providence at the Lord's Hand

Text: Ruth 1:1-22 (pew Bible p.411)

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. **2** The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. **3** Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. **4** They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, **5** both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. **6** When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. **7** With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. **8** Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. **9** May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them and they wept aloud **10** and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." **11** But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? **12** Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— **13** would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you,

because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!" ¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-by, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. ¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" ²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." ²² So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning. NIV

Response & Benediction

***The Hymn of Response**

“This Is My Father’s World”

Trinity Hymnal #111

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears,
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one.

**We stand, as we are able, to praise the Lord.*

We continue our plan to “spread out” with some gathering at home via YouTube live, some gathering in person in the Sanctuary and some gathering MASK ONLY in the Family Life Center. In the Sanctuary, we will sit/skip EVERY OTHER ROW in the main floor area downstairs. The downstairs back corner seating areas and the balcony are fully open. We are offering infant and toddler nursery during both Sunday School and Worship Service. We support whatever decision you make as each member takes responsibility for determining your confidence level as to continue gathering together online from your home or coming in person this week and in future weeks.

Updated Summary for continued consideration:

- * If you or a family member have been sick or are not feeling well, please worship from home online via our YouTube page.
- * Please prayerfully consider health guidelines established by governing authorities (anyone with existing health concerns and/or susceptible age range) and take personal responsibility for deciding when you are confident to gather in person. We want to encourage patience and we support whatever decision you make!
- * We will not pass offering plates; they will be located at door entrances/exits.
- * Worship guides available at door entrances (the words for scripture readings and hymns printed in worship guide).
- * Until further notice: No Choir and No Children’s sermon.
- * Please feel free to wear masks or PPE if that is your preference.
- * Sanctuary seating in the downstairs back corner areas and the balcony are fully open.
- * Family households plan to sit together.
- * Worship in the Family Life Center is mask only; chairs are spread out for social distancing.

Nursery	<u>Combined</u>	<u>Combined</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Today	Jackie Krashner	Trinna Meek	Rebecca Wallace
Nxt wk	Amanda Brummett	Ann Carol Love	Sheridan Miller
SEC			

If unable to find a replacement, please contact Judi Love, 803-628-1458, rossjudi99@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday today to Spencer Forrest and Charlotte Jackson! Happy Birthday this week to Cane Hoffman on 2/23, Helen Grant and Nicole Lawton on 2/24 and David McFalls on 2/26.

This Week at Bethel:

Wednesday: WIC Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Covenant SS room.

Next Week:

Men of the Covenant: March 1, 6:30 pm, FLC for a meal, program and fellowship. All Bethel men are invited to attend.

Diaconate Meeting: March 2, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary.

Upcoming:

Men's Trap Shoot and Supper: March 6, 3:00 pm, at the Flying King Ranch (1725 US-321, York, SC 29745). Guest speaker-Mark Ashbaugh. Bring a friend, a camp chair, a shotgun and ammo (if you have) or \$15 to cover the cost of shells. Please RSVP to Chris Wynkoop, 803-630-7556 or koop08008@yahoo.com

Children's Catechism: beginning March 7-May 23 (excluding Easter Sun. April 4) from 5:00-6:30 pm we are offering two classes-one for 4- to 5-year-olds and one for 1st through 6th graders. We will meet in the FLC at 5:00 pm for worship followed by games at 5:30 pm. We will move to classrooms (4-5-year-old class in their classroom and 1st - 6th grade in the Covenant classroom) for catechism from 6:00-6:30pm. Parents are welcome to stay and

worship with their children and then gather for fellowship and prayer with Chris Wallace at the picnic shelter. We are in need of two helpers for the 4-5-year-old class. Please prayerfully consider helping and let Ilse Wallace know if you can.

Vacation Bible School: July 19-23. *SAVE the DATE*Our theme is "Wilderness Escape: Where God Guides, He Provides". More information will be coming soon. If you have any questions, please contact Sheridan Miller at 803-230-2294 (sheridanmiller@bellsouth.net) or Ilse Wallace at 704-747-4703 (radiant4JC@protonmail.com).

Bethel Youth Group News:

Today: Youth Group is meeting tonight from 6:00-7:30 pm at the FLC! Bring a friend and plan to come for some fun fellowship and time in God's word/prayer together.

Please note that RYM Colorado deposits (\$100 per attendee) are past due, and the \$200 airfare cost is due March 31st.

Upcoming: Starting on Sunday, March 7, the youth group will begin meeting from 5:00-6:30.

Building Plans Update:

We ARE currently working on building plan options AND we ARE making some progress. We will communicate updates with more information for congregational consideration and approval as soon as we can. Given current circumstances, we do not yet know when an appropriate time to begin this project might be... THANK YOU for your continued patience and prayers!

Prayer Requests: Bobby Armstrong (brother-in-law of S. McCarter Mizell, cancer), Rick Duke (cancer) and wife Judy (friends of C. Davis), Judy Ferguson (healing from surgery), Margaret Ann Ferguson, Kathy Forester (E. Moseley's sister, breast cancer), Matthew Hall, Miriam Hovis, Mrs. Rita Jackson, Jan Kombs (friend of J. LeMoyne, stroke), Herb LeMoyne (J. LeMoyne's brother, Parkinson's disease), Dana Massey (advanced brain cancer, friend of S. Burns), Annie Mae McDaniel (Judy Ferguson's mother), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, cancer) and Norm West.