



Bethel
United Church of Christ
March 10, 2019

The People of God Gather for Worship

First Sunday in Lent

Kindly turn off or silence all electronic devices
Please observe a time of silence during the prelude for reflection and preparation for worship

PRELUDE *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* W. Croft/Arr. by C. Becket

WELCOME, CELEBRATIONS, & CONCERNS[†]

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INVITATION OF THE STEEPLE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 103

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

* HYMN NO. 697 *Creative God, You Spread the Earth* KINGSFOLD

ANTHEM *We Praise Your Name* Ruth Elaine Schram

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST LESSON Matthew 18:15–22 Pew Bible, page 799

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it

will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

CALL TO CONFESSION *Take, O Take Me As I Am* (sung twice)

Text and Music by John Bell



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

W. Rauschenbusch

In the great quiet of God, my troubles are but pebbles on the road, my joys are like the everlasting hills. So it is when I step through the gate of prayer from time into eternity. When I am in the consciousness of God, my brothers and sisters are not far-off and forgotten, but close and strangely dear. They shine, as if a light were glowing within them. Even those who frown on me and love me not seem part of the great scheme of God.

SILENT CONFESSION

RESPONSE NO. 594 *Dear Lord, and Father of Mankind* (vs. 1 and 5)

REST

Dear Lord, and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways!

Re-clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,

In deeper reverence, praise.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm.

Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire, speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,

O still, small voice of calm.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 18:23–35

Pew Bible, page 800

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him

ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

* HYMN OF RESPONSE

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Rick Founds

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,

from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,

from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky.

Lord, I lift your name on high!

SERMON

FROM THE HEART

INVITATION TO SHARE[‡]

* Offertory

The Gift of Love

Trad. English adapted by H. Hopson

Setting by John Carter

* Response

Give Thanks

Henry Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich"

because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

* Dedication of our offering and Material Aids

MATERIAL AIDS DEDICATION

We are blessed with material wealth far beyond our needs, O Lord, and we have much to share. We have focused our efforts over these past few weeks to bring to these tables a portion of this wealth.

Bless those in our church who created, collected, assembled and donated these items. Bless those organizations that further the gifts that we share by sending them on to those areas in our state, nation and world where there is a need.

Remember this:

God won't ask what kind of car you drove,

He'll ask how many people you gave a lift to who didn't have any transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house,

He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your wardrobe,

He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was,

He'll ask if you compromised your testimony to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was,

He'll ask whether you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had,

He'll ask how many people to whom you made sure you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived,

He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin,

He'll ask about the content of your character.

We will never know the people who receive the gifts of our hands or our offerings of time and treasure, but we know this is a way to express your love, through us, to them.

We dedicate these gifts to you, O Lord.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for this opportunity to serve you, as we join our voices now to pray:

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.

* HYMN NO. 595

Be Thou My Vision (vs. 1, 2, and 4)

SLANE

* BENEDICTION

* Indicates those who are able please stand

✚ Please fill out the pew pad. In order that we may best serve your spiritual needs, please use the prayer request cards in the pew rack and place them in the offering

Bold Indicates congregational response

Large print bulletins are available

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Minister: Rev. David Bucholtz

Music Director: Mary Sue Moore

Greeters: Ron and Peggy Diuble

Ushers: David Seeger, Mike Meranuck, Diane Seeger, Tim Seeger, and
Jeff Shankland

Acolyte: Ryan Amrhein

Lay Reader: Amanda Eisenmann

Anthem: Children's Choir, directed by Jennifer Bucholtz; accompanied by
Judy Fiegel

Child Care: Lillian St. Charles and Sydney Jedele

Altar Flowers: In honor of Cassidy Horodeczny and Colleen Roberts' birthdays.
Given by the Horodeczny and Roberts families

PRAYER REQUESTS

In the spirit of Christian love, remember these people and their families
in your thoughts and prayers – not only today, but throughout the coming week.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SUBMITTED BY</u>
February 24	Sonya Beedore.....	Larry Egeler
	Michael Cattran	Paul & Jennifer Heimerdinger
	Family of Sasha Dumitrache	Renee Casteels
	Gail Holder	Jean Holder
	Family of Lucille Loudin	Nancy Loudin
	Mac & Sharon McMurray.....	Emily St. Charles
March 3	Family of Naomi Bommer	
	Janice Clark	Stacey Neigebauer
	Glenda Capps	Emily St. Charles
	Family of Donald Covell	Julia Tobias
	Bea Haeussler	Lynn Strobbe
	Jeramy Marzec	Jackie Martin
	Mark McCoy	Carol Colby
	Family of Michael Smith.....	Betty Schneider
David Wynning	Carol Colby	
March 10	Karen Bellm.....	Renee St. Charles
	Family of Jim Brown.....	Shane & Stacey Neigebauer
	Family of Allan Carson	Carson Family
	Debbie Farbrother.....	Nancy Loudin
	Riley & Kayla Hieber.....	Bonnie Hieber
	Patti Henes.....	Stacey Neigebauer
	Family of Mary Gene Johnson	Renee St. Charles
	Alan Kremko	Nancy Loudin
	Monty Love	Angie Diuble
	Matt Mayhew	Stan & Patty Lambarth
	Kelly Pomorski.....	Kristi Campbell
	Kenny Seiler.....	Michelle Jedele
	Sheron Williams	Cat & James Meyer

Those Serving Our Country

Sept. 25, 2010	Gy-Sgt. Evan Wahl, U.S. Marines	Lyle Wahl
Jan. 13, 2013	Zachary Steelman, 101 st Airborne, U.S. Army	
April 3, 2016	Kyle Braun, U.S. Marines	Harvey & Marcella Luckhardt
Oct. 8, 2017	Henry Arbogast, U.S. Navy Seals.....	Darlene Kuebler
Sept. 2, 2018	Willie Day, U.S. Navy Seals.....	Jody Munson
Feb. 24, 2019	Bruce Walrad, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.....	Betty Jean Harper

EVENTS TODAY

9:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 7th & 8th grade make hot cross buns in Reineck Fellowship Hall kitchen

10:30-11:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Board of Christian Education meeting

11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class

11:45 a.m. Youth Choir Plus lunch & rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., March 11 **6:30-7:15 p.m.** Children's Choir rehearsal
 6:30-7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal
 7:30-9:00 p.m. Senior Choir rehearsal

Tues., March 12 **9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Bethel Quilters

Wed., March 13 **6:45 p.m.** Church Board meeting
 Newsletter articles are due

Fri., March 15

Sat., March 16 **8:00 a.m.** World Medical Relief trip
 6:00-9:00 p.m. Youth Ministry bowling at Chelsea Lanes
 St. Patrick's Day

Sun., March 17 **10:30 a.m.** Lenten Fair and Bunny Cake Bake-off
 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class

Mon., March 18 **6:30-7:15 p.m.** Children's Choir rehearsal
 6:30-7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal
 7:30-9:00 p.m. Senior Choir rehearsal

Tues., March 19 **9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Bethel Quilters

IN THE COMMUNITY

Thurs., March 14 **6:00-8:30 p.m.** St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea 12 week Family-to-Family Educational Program on Mental Illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, OCD, PTSD, etc. Register at 734-680-5312

Sat., March 16 **4:30-7:00 p.m.** St. Patrick's Dinner at Zion Lutheran Church

Sun., March 17 **3:00 p.m.** Seraph Brass free concert at Chelsea First United Methodist Church

Thurs., March 21 **6:00-8:00 p.m.** St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Education course for individuals living with mental illness. Register at 734-680-5312

Bethel Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Bethel United Church of Christ
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