



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, January 5, 2025

My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

Psalm 63:5

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Psalm 119:18

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

Adoration

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Read Responsively)**

1 Chronicles 16:23-34 ESV

Pastor: Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him!

People: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

All: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***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.

1 And God spoke all these words, saying,

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,

6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,

10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

The Call to Confession

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15 ESV

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. So, let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name. We are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. At the root of this behavior is mistrust. We do not love one another as we should, because we do not believe that you love us as you do.

Forgive us for our cold unbelief. And make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of your love at the cross. Show us what it cost you to give up your Son that we might become your sons and daughters. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

The Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 5:1-2 ESV

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***The Song of Thanks “My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness”**

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness with pow’r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly.
Whose every promise is enough for every step I take;
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth is given by the King.
So, I will give my life, my all, to love and follow Him.

***The Confession of Faith**

The Heidelberg Catechism
Q & A 86, 87

86 Q. Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?

A. Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.

87 Q. Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and unrepentant ways?

A. By no means. Scripture tells us that no unchaste person, no idolater, adulterer, thief, no covetous person, no drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like will inherit the kingdom of God.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

The Offertory Anthem

The Choir

***The 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.

***The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Consecration

The Children's Sermon

The Pastoral Prayer

***The New Testament Reading**

Ephesians 5:1-6 ESV
(pew Bible p. 1162)

The Sermon

Imitating the Lord

Pastor Chris Donnelly

I. Copying the Lord by _____ in love (vs. 1-2)

A. As children of God, _____ the Lord is the behavior we're supposed to display, especially when _____ by the sin surrounding us.

1 Peter 1:14-15 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.

B. Our transformed life in love:

1. For the _____, loving one another is not a mere suggestion but the fruit of a life truly _____ to Christ.

2. The love _____ by Jesus for His people serves as our _____
for loving each other.

John 15:12-13 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

II. Copying the Lord by _____ evil (vs. 3-6)

A. Because we have been _____ by the Holy Spirit and are being transformed by His ongoing work, our new _____ help us refrain from evil practices

1. We are called to steer clear of iniquity in our _____.

2. We must also avoid immorality in our _____.

B. One _____ for avoiding these behaviors is that there is no inheritance for those who _____ these deeds.

1. God's Kingdom is for those _____ who by God's grace through faith have been redeemed by Jesus Christ's _____ sacrifice on the cross.

2. The sons of _____ are those people who justly receive the Lord's wrath because they have not placed their _____ in Jesus for their salvation.

Answer Key: behavior, motivation, avoiding, trust, Christian, practice, living, speech, sealed, individuals, committed, disobedience, imitating, affections, demonstrated, confronted, pattern, supreme.

***The Preparation Hymn** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Trinity Hymnal #252

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow
and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration of the Elements

The Distribution of the Elements

Please hold the elements when received that we may all partake at the same time.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

***The Closing Hymn** “May the Mind of Christ My Savior” Trinity Hymnal #644

May the mind of Christ my Savior
live in me from day to day,
by his love and pow'r controlling
all I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his pow'r.

May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self abasing,
this is victory.

May his beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only him.

Benediction

***Postlude**

God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you: God be with you till we meet again.

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

Nursery	Infants (0-2)	Toddlers (2-4)	Worship Training (5-7)
Today	Ann Marsh and Trinna Meek	Jackie and Albert Krashner	Abby Chidester and Rebecca Wallace
Next week	Renee Nix and Beth Jackson	Drew and Morgan Brown	Amanda Brummett and Danielle Austin

Worship Training is available for children ages 5-7. The children will leave after the Children's Sermon to attend class in the Education Building; parents are to pick them up after the conclusion of the worship service.

Happy birthday today to Ken Long and Larry Falls! Happy birthday this week to Alex Riddle on 1/7; Cheri Jackson, Cindy Love, Nathalee Cuffman, and Roddy Beard on 1/8; and Cathy Britt and Stewart McCall on 1/9.

Welcome visitors! Please fill out a welcome card located in the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate.

This morning, we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together as a church family. All communing members of Bethel and all visitors with us this morning who are baptized members in good standing of another evangelical church are encouraged to use the worship service to examine themselves in preparation for the wonderful means God has given us to draw closer to Him and to one another as His people.

The deacons fund will be received this morning following the worship service. Please consider giving to this ministry to help those in need in our congregation and community.

This Week at Bethel

Today: KidsQuest, 5:00 pm

Youth, 5:00 pm

Monday: Men of the Covenant, 6:30 pm, FLC. All Bethel men are invited for a meal, devotional, and program.

Tuesday: Circle No. 1, 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor
GriefShare, 6:30-8:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 pm

Wednesday: Colleen Riddle Circle, 11:00 am, Covenant Classroom

GriefShare, 1:00-3:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Thursday: Mentors & Moms, 9:30-11:15 am, Education Building

Next Week at Bethel

Session Meeting: Sunday, January 12, 2:00 pm, Conference Room

Circle No. 2: Sunday, January 12, 3:30 pm, Education Building

Middle School Girls Discipleship Group: Sunday, January 12, 4:00 pm, basement

KidsQuest: Sunday, January 12, 5:00 pm

Youth: Sunday, January 12, 5:00 pm

Circle No. 3: Monday, January 13, 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

GriefShare: Tuesday, January 14, 6:30-8:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

GriefShare: Wednesday, January 15, 1:00-3:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Mentors & Moms: Thursday, January 16, 9:30-11:15 am, Education Building

QR Code for Giving



Prayer Requests: Recovery, healing, and strength: Steve Britt, Tammy Carrick, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Don Johnson, Bill Keller, Mary Love, Debbie Meek, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace Visitors: God would give us eyes to see those singles, couples, and families we can invite to our congregation; we would be a warm, welcoming faith community where the love of Christ is freely shared and received. Families and marriages: that the Lord would help us to show His mercy and grace to our spouse and children each time they need it and not bring up past hurts or failures.