



2nd Sunday in Lent

Worship with Holy Communion

March 5, 2023



Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here with us—in person and via Zoom—and we pray God will be real to you as you worship. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Knowing God loves all creation and holds us all, we welcome you. We welcome everyone and honor the rich diversity and giftedness that age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships.

Communion - We will celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom, as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine or grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup—Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

GATHERING

Prelude



Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all gender/l restroom is located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

Address 5658 North Denver Avenue • **Portland, Oregon** 97217 • **Email** bethel@bethelpdx.org • **Website** www.bethelpdx.org

Confession

Please stand in body or spirit

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise

Let All Things Now Living Verse 2

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from Genesis

¹The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

A reading from Romans

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

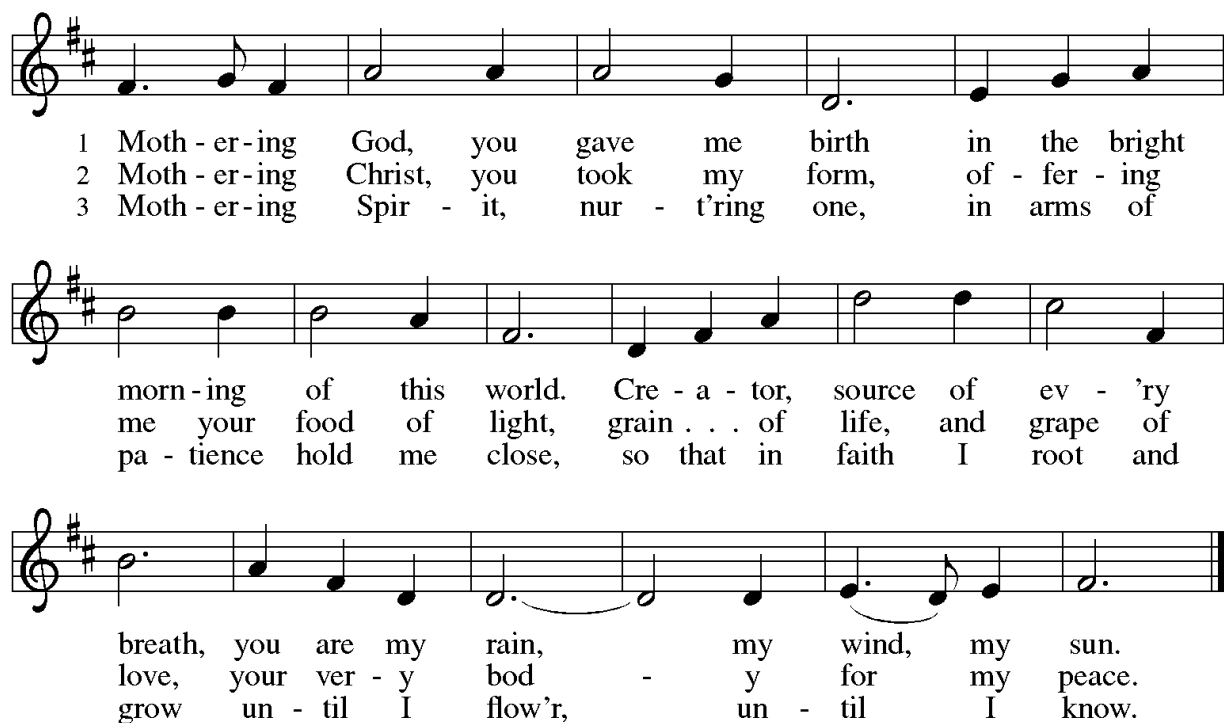
Sermon

Please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of

morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and

breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413

Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

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Prayers of Intercession

*The response to each prayer is: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

Sharing of Peace — *Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person*

COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshiping virtually, please gather your bread and wine to participate in Holy Communion.

Offering

You may use one of our options for giving: Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, Paypal, see our website bethelpdx.org for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may donate by mail or, if worshiping in-person, use the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand in body or spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues with the Thanksgiving at the Table. At the end, all say: **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

Please be seated

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

SENDING

Announcements

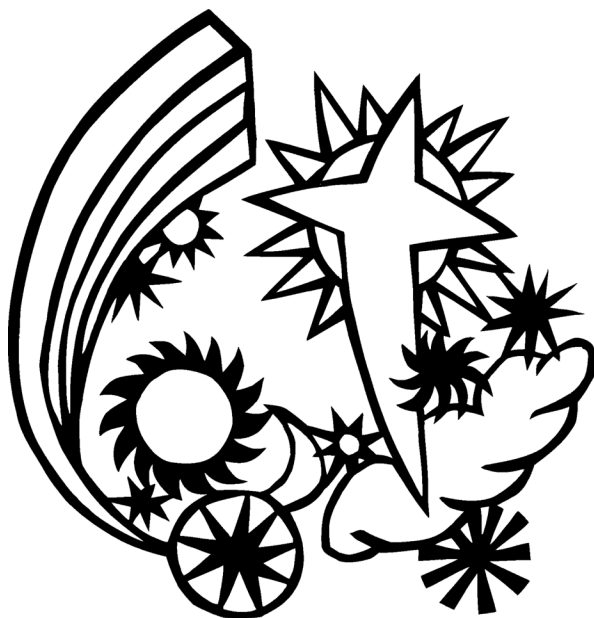
Blessing

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.
Amen.

Sending Song

The Sending.

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Mar. 5, 2023	Next week – Mar. 12, 2023
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Music Director	Jamie Vandenberg	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBD	TBD
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Please Pray:

Pray for the women of Iran that they may speak out in safety and be heard and honored.

Pray for all those on the Turkey/Syrian boarder who have suffered great loss due the earthquake.

Pray for Farid Owji, a cousin to a friend of Pastor Leon, who is a journalist in Iran who was jailed for 27 days. Help him to heal from his trauma and help him as he seeks safety and asylum in other countries.

Let us continue to pray for all victims of gun violence.

Pray for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside, OR. Let us lift them up in the spirit of congeniality, and partnership to live out the gospel message with our neighbors.

Pray for peace and justice in Russia and Ukraine

Pray for peace and justice and safety among our houseless neighbors. Help us understand how we can share your love with them.

Pray for Bethel leaders, including Pastor Leon LaCross, Music Director Shlomo Farber, YDIC Summer Program Director Heather Anderson, Admin Assistant Kerry Czuba, the 2023 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for those going through our confirmation program that they grow in faith and have a deeper understanding of Jesus as someone who is a guiding, loving force in their lives.

Pray for our children, as they work on the 2nd half the school year. May they finish out the year with a yearning to learn more.

Pray for those who are ill:

- **Neil Marshall** (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor while newly returned to his home base
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and all her family who are caregiving and traveling and dealing with plumbing adventures in Faith's older home.
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health
- **Leo Lawrence** as he continues treatment for cancer
- **Jeff Kolpin, husband of Shirley**, as he recovers from hip surgery. Give them the grace and humor to get through.
- **John Knight and family** as John continues in memory care
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer
- **Donald Gibler**, grandson of Laverne Atkins, who has experienced a set back due to a previous injury.
- **Clarence Montgomery and his family**, cousin of Karen Anderson, who has been recently diagnosed with Parkinson's disease that has progressed rapidly.
- **Gary Andeen** as he receives treatments for lung cancer.

- **Amy Bishop McDonald** for her diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.
- **Faith St. John** for a speedy recovery after surgery
- **Chuck Huntley**, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Dave Moody** as he is dealing with loss.

Pray for all those who have passed away that they experience the loving embrace of God's love.

Pray for Miles Bard as he transitions to moving back to Portland.

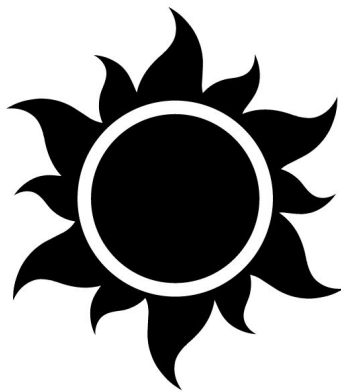
Pray for Cedar, nephew of P.J. & Dorian Bentley, that he receives caring and effective mental health treatment during a very difficult time for him and his family.

Continuing prayers for well-being for our loved ones **Timothy, Elizabeth, Faith, Jim, Rob, Jacob, Miles, Andrew, Nash**, and **Patricia**--may they walk in light and peace.

Pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings received this week.

Pray we know that God is close and we are open to receiving and sharing God's love.

Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.



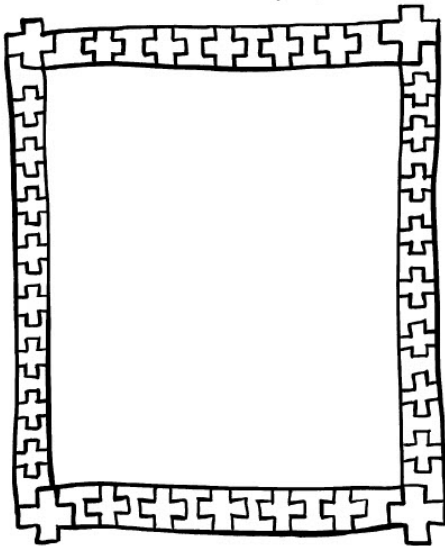
***YDIC Summer Program
Welcomes
Heather Anderson as the new
Summer Program Director***



Send

God's love

It is the Lord who watches over you (Psalm 121:5).



Draw a time when you feel God watching over you and protecting you.

This week

Learn John 3:16, a very important verse for the family of God.

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Kids Celebrate

Second Sunday in Lent

Gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the second Sunday in Lent. Young or old, we are all labeled "Children of God."

Use the words to help you label the picture.

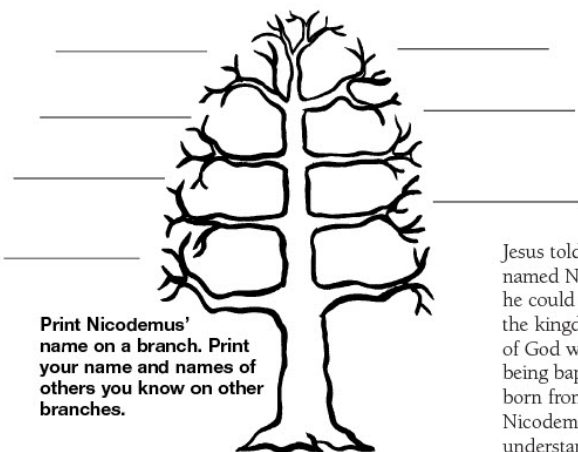


Hear & Celebrate

Family tree

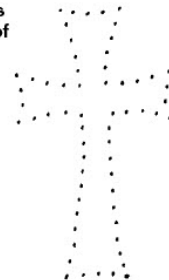
John 3:1-17

We believe Jesus brings us eternal life, just like a tree brings nutrients to its branches. We come to God's family through Jesus.

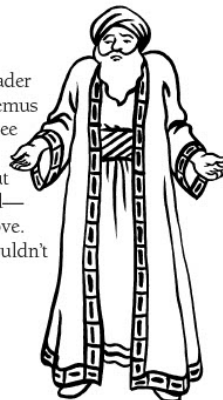


Print Nicodemus' name on a branch. Print your name and names of others you know on other branches.

Trace the dotted lines to find another kind of family tree.



Jesus told a leader named Nicodemus he could not see the kingdom of God without being baptized—born from above. Nicodemus couldn't understand.



Jesus died on the cross so we can live in God's family forever.

How many crosses do you see in the worship space today? Did anyone carry a cross in as worship began?

There are 40 days in Lent. Can you find 40 crosses in this bulletin?



Purple, the dark rich color of a royal family, is the color in Lent. Look for purple things in worship today. When do we see Jesus as the King?



Jesus our Savior, we are thankful to be called children of God. Amen