

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



Reconciling in Christ
January 29, 2023

WELCOME, VISITORS

Please sign the visitor's book at our Welcome Center in the narthex.

If you'd like to know more about us or are considering becoming a member, please complete the form found in each pew, return it to an usher or simply put it in the collection plate.

There is a cry room down the stairs off the Narthex where the service can still be heard.

Busy-bags, children's bulletins and magazines and are also provided in the Narthex.

We'd like for you to learn more about us!

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation: We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and we are committed to work for racial equity.

A Green Congregation: for being stewards of the earth.

In Covenant with Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin), lcmstl.org

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY

Today we celebrate Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday. Our own community as well as the broader Lutheran and civic communities have been immeasurably enriched by the Reconciling call to be welcoming "to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" and to work for racial equity. Such welcome is truly Epiphany Light to the world. The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Additional information about the RIC program is available online at reconcilingworks.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTOR ROY LEDBETTER ON 49 YEARS OF ORDAINED MINISTRY!

We give thanks with Pastor Roy as he observes the 49th Anniversary of his Holy Ordination.

In support of our goal of being a caring, inclusive, Christ-centered community, we

- ❖ care for God's creation
- ❖ promote the non-violence of Christ and care for those who suffer
- ❖ participate in the Spirit toward a global religious community

+ The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany +

+ Reconciling in Christ +

January 29, 2023

10 a.m.

The responses of the assembly appear in bold type.

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.



The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) logo, inspired by the Progressive Pride Flag design, includes the colors blue, pink, and white to represent our transgender siblings, as well as black and brown stripes, to represent the fullness that our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Community brings to the queer community.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

from *Sonata in E flat*, for clarinet and piano (1824)

II. Andante

Music of Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Dr. Gary Lessmann, clarinet

GATHERING HYMN

I Come With Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

ELW # 482

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The presiding minister greets the assembly:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, fountain of living water,
the source of breath and nourishment.

Amen.

The assisting minister invites the assembly to give thanks:

You call us through the waters of baptism
to be our authentic selves as your children.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

The presiding minister gives thanks as water is poured into the font.

We praise you for the waters of life:

for the streams and oceans, lakes and estuaries,

and for the rain and snow that gives life to every living thing.

From the waters above and the waters below,

you made sacred our bond with water.

Through the waters of the flood and the parting of the seas,

you showed your promises to be true.

In the waters of baptism you claimed us

and called each of us by our true name.

Through baptism into the body of Christ,

you transformed our lives and made us whole.

Send now your Spirit to move in our midst

and soak us with your gifts of mercy, love, and grace.

Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God

The *Gloria in excelsis*, the Christmas canticle of the angels.

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



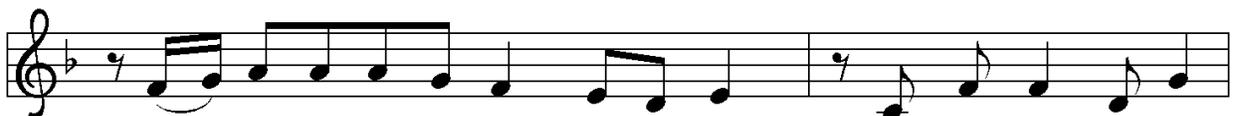
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God be with you.

And also with you.

Loving Creator, you knit us together and created our innermost beings. You created us loved, worthy, and unique. You created us LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, neuro-diverse, and physically diverse. Help us to find our wholeness in you and live into our divinely inspired purpose. Guide us to unfold your story of love, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated at the conclusion of the Prayer of the Day.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

The offering of justice, kindness, humility

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

A reading from Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with the chosen people; the Lord will contend with Israel.

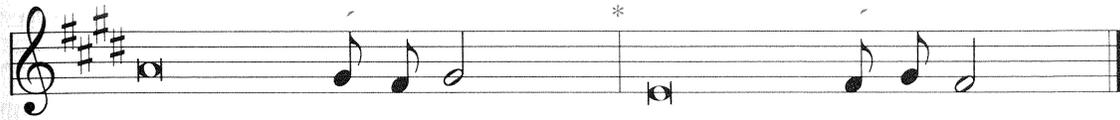
“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Cantor Lord, who may dwell in your / tabernacle?
 who may abide upon your / holy hill?

**People Those who lead a blameless life and do / what is right,
 who speak the truth / from their heart.**

Cantor There is no guile upon their tongue;
 they do no evil / to their friend;
 they do not heap contempt up- / on their neighbor.

**People In their sight the wicked / are rejected,
 but they honor those who / fear the Lord.**

Cantor They have sworn to / do no wrong
 and do not take / back their word.

**People They do not give their money in / hope of gain,
 nor do they take a bribe a- / gainst the innocent.**

**ALL Those who / do these things
 shall never be / overthrown.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

A reading from First Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST READING

Freed by God's grace, the body of Christ on earth leads a joyous dance of transformation, integrating sexuality and spirituality, justice and mercy. Through continuous reformation, the Church embraces in holiness and into wholeness people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, strengthening us for authentic, visible, faithful lives. Dedicated to radical reconciliation, the Church falls into the heart of God's passionate intent, co-creating a world without outcasts, calling all to serve as guests and hosts at God's table of blessing and power.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come*

Perry Nelson

Sung by ALL.

ALL: A- rise, shine, _____ for your light has come, ___ and the
 glo- ry of ___ the Lord has ris- en up- on you! Al- le- lu- ia,
 Al ___ le- lu- ia, Al- le- lu- ia! _____ All who fol- low Je- sus the
 light, shall ___ have ___ the light ___ of life! Al- le- lu- ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

*The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes**Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain and sat down; and his disciples came to him. Then Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the dominion of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the dominion of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON***Called into the World*

Pastor Merle Brockhoff

In the Hymn of the Day we proclaim the word of God in song.

The assembly is invited to stand at the final phrase of the introduction.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Blessed Are the Pure in Heart*

GARELOCHSIDE

1. All 2. High voices 3. Low voices 4. All

High voices = soprano/alto Low voices = tenor/bass

1. Blest are the pure in heart, For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs, Their soul is Christ's abode.
2. The Lord, who left the heav'ns Our life and peace to bring,
In lowliness did dwell on earth, Our pattern and our King.
3. Still to the lowly soul He does himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne He calls the pure in heart.
4. We seek your presence, Lord; This grace to us impart:
Make us a temple fit for you, A pure and lowly heart.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, and trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

We pray for our pastors, deacons, bishops, and all church leaders, that they may lead us to be a loving and welcoming community in Jesus Christ. We pray that the whole church may someday be a refuge for all of our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the sustainability of our Earthly home. Guide us to care for creation, be mindful of waste and carbon emissions, and the impact of these sins on poor and marginalized communities. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for change: For the dismantling of systems rooted in oppression and discrimination. Make us bold in our proclamation that the lives, loves, and gifts of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Aromantic, Black, Brown, Indigenous, Incarcerated, Disabled, and Migrant people matter to you, and so they matter to all of us – manifest in both word and deed. Teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for our siblings all around the world. We pray that governments enact laws that protect and defend the poor, marginalized, and persecuted. We pray that your hand of justice intercedes for us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those that have chaos swirling with them. We pray for those that have been told they are “less than”, “wrong”, or an outcast for who they are. We pray that all of us find our true peace and wholeness of ourselves in you. We pray for those that are victims of violence at the hands of homophobia, transphobia, racism, and ableism (anapirophobia). We pray for your mercy, love, and healing to care for them. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray that you would give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need, especially Faith, Mike, Vasiliki, Steve, Donna, Jan, Jack, Rudolph, Mark, Brittany, Mary, Julie, Nick, Evonne, Ronald, Meredith, Joe, Michael, Marcie, Anne-Marie, and those we name now, silently or aloud. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray that our faith community and its ministries uplift and care for all of your diverse created beings. We pray that we work towards justice and peace in our own family and community. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We rejoice with Pastor Roy on the 49th anniversary of his ordination, and give thanks for his service to the community of God. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray that you would look on your Church with grace and guide our Call Committee, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. To the members of our Call Committee grant your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for all those have gone before us in the fight for justice, freedom, and peace: Those who have boldly stood as themselves, showing the substance you created even when the world told them to hide. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presiding minister The peace of Christ be with you always.
Assembly **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. After greeting one another, the assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY from the oratorio, *Elijah* [1846]
Chorus, "He, Watching Over Israel"
music of Felix Mendelssohn

*He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish,
He will quicken thee.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all creation,
you have given us life, love, compassion, and hope. We offer the gifts of our very beings to your holy calling. Strengthen us through these gifts to be the arms of mercy for the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are welcome at God's table. If you believe that here Christ is truly present in, with and under the elements of bread and wine, and you have partaken in a home congregation or perceive the welcome of Christ to this table, you are welcome to receive. Children of God who do not commune are invited to come forward for the blessing. The wine is clear; the grape juice is a darker color.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for you sent your Child to be the light and life for the world; through him you showed us how to love and be loved, how to enact justice and pray for peace. And so, with the glorious company of the saints, with earth and sea and stars, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



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



san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the ☩ Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister invites the assembly to Christ's table, where all are welcome.

Come you who are weak and weary,
come you who are persecuted and abandoned,
come you who are cast to the margins,
come you who search for love and wholeness.

Come as you are, rejoice and be glad, for yours is the dominion of heaven.
These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

from *Sonata, Op. 65, # 4*
Andante religioso
Music of Felix Mendelssohn

COMMUNION ANTHEM

from the oratorio, *Elijah* [1846]
Chorale, "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord"
Music of Felix Mendelssohn

*Cast thy burden upon the Lord, God will thus sustain thee;
And never will suffer the righteous to fall; God is at thy right hand.
Thy mercy, Lord, is great, and far above the heav'ns.
Let none be made ashamed that wait upon Thee!*

The assembly stands for the Table Blessing.

TABLE BLESSING

May the nourishment of the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ
give you renewed strength and life.

Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION

I Leave as You Have Promised, Lord (The Nunc Dimittis)
MIT FRIED'UND FREUD'

One of the landmark festivals of this time after Epiphany is next Thursday's *Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord*. In accordance with the Law of Moses, every mother of a newborn son, after forty days of ritual purification, was required to go to the Temple to present her child in dedication to God. And so, this festival falls on the fortieth day after Christmas—February 2—a faint echo of the Nativity, and yet another beautiful expression of Christ's manifestation among us. For our Postcommunion canticle, we sing Simeon's inspired song of praise, the *Nunc Dimittis* [Luke 2:29-32].



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give thanks to you, God of mercy and love. We thank you for the nourishment that sustains our living spirits. We ask that you guide us and bless us on our journey to strive for peace and wholeness for all. In the sacred name of the Redeemer, we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old
DIX

ELW # 302

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister dismisses the assembly.

Go in wholeness. Do justice; love kindness; walk humbly with your God.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

from *Sonata, Opus 65, # 2*
III. Allegro maestoso e vivace
Music of Felix Mendelssohn

* * *

Special thanks to Bethel member **Gary Lessmann**, clarinetist, for his gift of music this morning.

Today's special music includes works by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847). The grandson of the renowned German-Jewish philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, Felix was, like Mozart, a child prodigy. And like the Salzburg master, he held the music of J. S. Bach in high regard. Unlike Mozart, Mendelssohn was a convert to Lutheranism, and composed the *Reformation Symphony* of 1830 to mark the tercentenary of the Augsburg Confession. He contributed significantly to the revival of interest in the music of Bach, with his festival performance of the master's *St. Matthew Passion* in 1829.

Mendelssohn's *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* was composed in 1824, when he was only 15 years old. Although the *Sonata* is not considered a virtuoso work, it aptly exploits the lyrical characteristics of the clarinet, an instrument highly esteemed in his day as the "nightingale of the orchestra."

Although imbued with a German romantic spirit, Mendelssohn's six organ sonatas are nonetheless an homage to Bach's vast output of organ works. These sonatas by Mendelssohn have become staples of the organist's repertoire, and are among the few significant organ works of the nineteenth century to come from outside France.

Cover image: *The Sermon on the Mount*, engraving by the French artist, Gustave Doré (1832-1883).

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In Our Prayer Continually:

We give thanks with **Pastor Roy** as he observes the 49th Anniversary of his Holy Ordination.

We offer prayers in thanksgiving for **Faith Scofield** for her excellent recovery from a serious stroke. She is out of the hospital and at home.

We pray for **Mike Grupe** as he continues his recovery from surgery.

We give thanks for the good health and speedy return of Bethel member, **Ron Rendleman**, who has recovered from recent surgery.

We pray for **Vasiliki Tsouva**, who is struggling with illness and health concerns. Dr. Tsouva is a close friend and colleague of Dr. Mager.

We pray for **Steve Bristol** (father of Christian, Heather and Zachary) who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We pray for comfort, strength and support for him and his family.

We pray for God's peace, health and strength for **Donna Rhodes**, who is on dialysis. Donna is a friend of the Bristol family. Her son Nick is a close friend of Christian Bristol.

We pray for healing and comfort for **Jan Harrington**, as he recovers from recent back surgery. Dr. Harrington is a friend and teacher of Dr. Mager.

We pray for **Jack Williamson** (father of **Jennifer Williamson**) who has dementia. May he and his family find support in learning to find joy in the new.

We pray for God's comfort and peace for **Rudolph Mueller** who is now under hospice care.

We pray for **Mark Doerries** (close friend and colleague of **Dr. Mager**), as he continues to contend with a cancer diagnosis.

We pray for **Brittany** (niece of **Ann and Bob Mottl**) for her continued healing as she begins radiation treatments that will be followed by five months of chemotherapy.

We pray for God's comfort and strength to be with **Mary Baker Findley** (sister of **Vicki Baker Lottes**) with stage 4 cancer and her husband **David Findley** whose Alzheimer's is progressing rapidly.

We pray for **Julie Murthy** (cousin of **Emily Pelcak**) as she starts her battle with cancer.

We pray for strength and wisdom for **Nick Peppes** (colleague of **Gail Heyne Hafer**) who is facing personal challenges.

We pray for God's strength to be with **Evonne Simmons** as she lives with chronic illness.

We give thanks for **Ronald Thompson's** (stepbrother of **Kristin Soifer**) recovery from the injury he sustained in a fall, and pray for him as he continues to face chronic illness.

We pray for healing and hope to be with **Meredith Sallee** (sister of **Katy Koontz**) during her treatment for cancer.

We pray for **Joe Whelan** (stepson to **Tim Gutknecht**) who is dealing with a genetic condition.

We pray for **Michael Moentmann** who lives with chronic illness.

We continue our prayers for **Marcie Dowell** as she lives with a heart condition. May God's peace comfort her during this time.

We pray for **Anne-Marie Bogdan** (sister of Nathan Schroeder) as she lives with long-standing health conditions. May God's comfort and strength be with her and her family.

Bethel Announcements

Weekly Hospitality

Hosting after-service hospitality is a great way to serve the congregation (literally) and to encourage fellowship. We have plates, cups and napkins. We also keep ice and lemonade mix available. You just bring your favorite snacks! There is a paper sign-up form on a clipboard in the trays in the back of the narthex (southeast corner).

Bethel Directory Available

If you would like a printed Bethel directory (regular or large print), you may pick one up from the table in the Narthex. If you are interested in a pdf version to keep on your desktop, please email the office and request one to be emailed to you. We are offering the pdf version only to members and friends of Bethel. The directory team has done their best to make it as accurate as possible, but if we missed something, please update in Breeze or contact the office.

Fill a bag for the Good Ground Pantry!

We started a new emphasis on supporting the Good Ground Pantry. Remember to take a bag this month, fill it and return it to the baskets in the Narthex.

How does this work?

- Take a bag from the basket in the Narthex.
- Fill it with food.
- Return the bag of food to Bethel any Sunday during the month.
- Place items in or near the baskets in the Narthex.

The Good Ground Pantry is an ongoing project at Bethel with a number of members and friends that work a Saturday a month or occasionally to distribute bags of food to the guests. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

*Have Something for the Bethel Connection, Bulletin, Website, Narthex Information Board, or Facebook?
Email it to submissions@bethelstl.org by 9 a.m. Monday morning.*

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant	Pastor Roy Ledbetter
Preacher	Pastor Merle Brockhoff
Assisting Minister	KJ Monahan
Steward	Avery White
Acolyte	Aiden Williamson
First Lector and Communion Assistant	Marie Walker
Second Lector	Evelyn Meyer
Musicians	Bethel Chancel Choir Dr. Stephen Mager, Music Director
Audio-Visual Engineers	Brittany Upchurch Liam Williamson
Ushers	Cindy Clausen Ken Brown
Altar Guild	Ann Homann Bob Mottl
Teller	Stephen Phelps



7001 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63105
Office Hours Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
(314) 863-3112



Want to make an offering gift electronically?
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Have a prayer request? Email it to prayers@bethelstl.org anytime.

The Rev. Merle Brockhoff, Interim Pastor
Stephen Mager, DM, Organist and Music Director
The Rev. Tina Reyes (she/her/ella), Campus Pastor, LuMin St. Louis
Deb Grupe, Director of Child, Youth, and Family Ministry
Eric Townsley, Custodian, custodian@bethelstl.org
Anna Burkemper, Church Administrator, office@bethelstl.org

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.