

Bethlehem Presbyterian Church

Welcomes you on this 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

10:30 AM

A service of reconciliation and prayer for our nation.

We Enter God's Presence

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

P: one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

L: one God and Father of all,

P: who is above all and through all and in all.

HYMN: THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION #442 (BLUE)

LITANY OF CONFESSION (see insert)

* Gloria Patri **Glory be to the Father,**

And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning,

is now and ever shall be,

world without end, Amen, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER

We Receive God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 23:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 2:11-22

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

MESSAGE: Breaking Down the Hostility Between Us

A PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

In this time that seems uncertain and unpredictable, one thing does not change. The Lord works to bring redemption and healing to this broken world. God invites us to do the same.

Please join me in prayer: Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation

Whom shall I fear,

The Lord is the stronghold of our lives

Of whom shall we be afraid

Come, my heart says, seek God's face.

Your face, Lord, do we seek

We remain confident in this:

We will see the land of the living .

Wait for the Lord.

Be strong and let our heart take courage.

Wait, we will, for the Lord.

HYMN: CREATOR GOD YOU MADE THIS LAND

(Tune: St Petersburg: #209 Blue)

1. Creator God, you made this land
and gave to us the gift of life.

You wish that we should live as one,
but we acknowledge sin and strife.

Let justice everywhere be found,

Let discord end and love abound.

2. Your covenants of old stand firm,
your ways are faithful, right and just.

Bind us together in your love

to live and work in growing trust.

Strengthen those ties which keep us true
to serve each other, serving you.

3. Our Savior Christ, you came to earth.
You know our joys, our hopes, our pain.
To call us into covenant,
you gave your life and rose again.

You make us yours, you give us worth
to be your light in all the earth.

4. Great God in this our land of birth,
speak in the stillness deep within.
Remove all prejudice and fear,
give life to all, new hope begin.

Then help us gently walk as friends,
while on this land your peace descends.

(375 Words by Keith Pearson © The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress)

We Respond to God's Grace

THE OFFERING

* 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. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN: THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD #293 (BLUE)

*BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Therefore, let us confess our sins and seek the life of freedom that is ours through Christ Jesus.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

L: Sovereign God, in baptism you called us to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ; but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you united us with all the baptized who confess your name; but we foster division in the church. We refuse to live as one people, and so fail to witness to your reconciling love before the world.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you call us to ministry in all realms of life, but we do not nurture the ways of peace; we allow enmity and hatred to grow among us, putting neighbor against neighbor, and nation against nation.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you sent us to serve with compassion all for whom Christ died; but we ignore the suffering of the oppressed and the plight of the poor.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you gave us the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us, but we rely on ourselves, and refuse to trust your direction.

We spurn your eternal wisdom, preferring the luring ways of the world.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.