



The United Church of Bethel

An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA

February 7th, 2021

Tom Harty – Pastor

Becky Kondi- Keyboard & Vocals, Larry Noble – Guitar & Vocals,

Seth Stoddard Technical Director

♠= Please Stand If you Are Able

All Prayers and Service Music are Found in the Folders in the Music Racks

Centering & Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Greeting and Responsive Call to Worship

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give him thanks and praise

Good people of the church,

Lift up your eyes and see.

Have you not seen?

Have you not heard?

Our God greets us here.

Good servants of the Most High,

Open your ears to hear.

Have you not seen?

Have you not heard?

Our God meets us here.

Good children of the light

Open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

For we have seen, heard and known

From the beginning to the end,

Our God...is.

Let us worship God

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

♠ Hymn NCH 164 Arise Your Light is Come

Prayer of Confession

What do we hold and treasure most?

Is it the promises of God?

What captivates our attention?

Is it the grace of God?

God of mercy and grace:

We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable.

We are broken people who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness.

Heal us, O God, to make us better healers. Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders. Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression. We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Have you known? Have you heard? Our God lifts us up on eagle's wings
Strengthening us so that we won't be weary. The burden of sin is but a far and distant
memory For, through Christ, our sins – all of them – are forgiven. *Out loud, but muted*

God is great in strength, mighty in power, and full of endless love for us all

Passing of the Peace

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147

refrain: Great is our God and abundant in power.

✠ **Gloria Patri**

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Choral Anthem

✠ **Gospel Mark 1:29-39**

✠ **Hymn NCH 27 From All That Dwell Below the Skies**

Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

Offering

✠ **Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

Communion

✠ **Hymn NCH 6 Sing Praise to God Our Highest Good**

✠ **Choral Benediction**

Postlude

(Please remain seated for a period of quiet meditation and appreciation for the music our worship team provides.)

*Whoever you are, Wherever you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.
Our Faith is 2000 Years Old; Our Thinking is Not.*

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21–31

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
23 who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
25 To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
29 He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
30 Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

PSALM

Psalm 147:1–11, 20c

Great is our God and abundant in power.

1 Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.

4 He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

Great is our God and abundant in power.

6 The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.

9 He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.

10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

11 but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the Lord!

Great is our God and abundant in power.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

16 If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! 17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might

win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:29–39

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons

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