



The United Church of Bethel

An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA

October 24th, 2021

Tom Harty - Pastor

Becky Kondi - Keyboard & Vocals,

Larry Nobile - Guitar & Vocals,

Seth Stoddard - Technical Director

☩= *Please Stand If You Are Able*

Centering & Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

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 God
thanks and praise**

Sing aloud with gladness:

God is gathering the people!

From the farthest parts of the
earth we come:

**All who struggle; all who labor
with new life!**

Those who are weeping,
God will console;

**Those who get lost find a
clear path home.**

Let us worship the God
who gathers us!

Invocation & Lord's Prayer

☩ **Hymn NCH 319**

Sing Them Over Again to Me

Prayer of Confession

When we want to be a church open to
your transforming love,
yet cling to comfortable ways:

**Jesus, Heir of David,
have mercy on us!**

When we want to honor your "still
speaking voice", but are fearful of
insights which challenge old
assumptions:

**Jesus, Heir of David, have
mercy on us!**

When we want to live into Jesus'
dream of oneness, but fail to
listen to voices of difference:

**Jesus, Heir of David,
have mercy on us!**

Words of Assurance

Take heart, get up; Jesus is calling to us!
We trust in the one who has guided the
church for two millennia.
Through Christ, God forgives us our
failings, and continues to call us into a
community of mutual love and
forgiveness.
Let us celebrate this mercy of God
by greeting each other with a sign of
Christ's peace.

Passing of the Peace

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7–9

Psalm 126

*r: May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy!*

✠ **Gloria Patri**

Epistle: Hebrews 7:23–28

Choral Anthem

✠ **Gospel:** Mark 10:46–52

✠ **Hymn NCH 4**
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

Offering

✠ **Doxology**

Prayer of Dedication

✠ **Hymn NCH 449**

Softly and Tenderly

✠ **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

Jeremiah 31:7–9

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

PSALM 126

r: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

1. When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
2. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
3. The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

r: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

4. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
5. *May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.*
6. *Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.*

r: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 7:23–28

²³ Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵ Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10:46–52

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” ⁵² Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.