



The United Church of Bethel

An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA

March 7th Third Sunday in Lent, 2021

Tom Harty – Pastor

Becky Kondi- Keyboard & Vocals, Larry Nobile – 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

“Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice
in the God who makes us free.

**We gather, recognizing that not all human beings
have known this freedom.**

The divine will was made known in Eden and in Egypt;
in Gettysburg and in Cape Town.

**Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery,
our destiny in Christ is liberty.**

Invocation and Lord’s Prayer

♠ Hymn NCH 286 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Prayer of Confession

In this season of Lent we reflect on those things
that lead us away from the life we desire.

We focus on whatever we do that oppresses and enslaves others
who, like us, are created in the image of the divine.

And now we seek the grace that frees us to live in faithfulness to holy love. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

The God of who brought the Israelites out of Egypt,
is the power that frees us from our sin.

Live in the grace of God's love
as you walk in the way of Jesus

and surely you shall find mercy at the end of that road. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Frist Reading: Exodus 20:1-7

Psalm 19

refrain O God you are my rock and me redeemer

✦ **Gloria Patri**

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Choral Anthem

✦ **Gospel Reading:** John 2:13-22

✦ **Hymn NCH 208 God Loved The World**

Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

Offering

✦ **Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

Communion

Hymn NCH 346 Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

Communion Prayer

✦ **Hymn NCH 16 Let Us With a Joyful Mind**

✦ **Benediction**

Choral Response: Let There Be Peace on Earth

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: Exodus 20:1–17

1 Then God spoke all these words: 2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3 you shall have no other gods before me.

4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. "

PSALM 19

O God, you are my rock and my redeemer

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

- 5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

O God, you are my rock and my redeemer

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
- 13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

O God, you are my rock and my redeemer

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

18 For 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. 19 For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20 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? 21 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. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

