



The United Church of Bethel

An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA

February 14th, 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

Gathering in this sacred place
we anticipate new wonders each week.
**Wherever two or three are gathered to worship,
a holy spirit is present.**

Open our eyes to witness
the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed,
even this day, even in this place.
**We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary
but when we leave today may our hearts be open
to all the wonders of God's beautiful world**

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

♠ Hymn NCH 599 Steal Away

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters,
and on the mountain tops,

enthralled with the glory that flows from you.

When we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us,
**shake us from our contentment
and send us forward endowed with your power. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God of Elijah, the God of Moses and the God of Jesus
desires mercy more than sacrifice
and a contrite heart rather than burnt offerings.
Love God and do the right thing
and forgiveness shall be your friend
and mercy your true companion. **Amen**

Passing of the Peace

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50

Refrain: Our God comes and does not keep silence

✦ **Gloria Patri**

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Choral Anthem

✦ **Gospel Mark 9:2-9**

✦ **Hymn NCH 451 Be Now My Vision**

Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

Offering

✦ **Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

✦ **Hymn NCH 524 This Little Light of Mine**

Benediction

✦ **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

2 Kings 2:1-12

2:1 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

2:2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

2:3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

2:4 Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

2:5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

2:6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

2:7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

2:8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

2:9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

2:10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."

2:11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

2:12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM

Psalm 50:1-6

Our God comes and does not keep silence

50:1 The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

50:3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

Our God comes and does not keep silence

50:4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

50:5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

50:6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah

Our God comes and does not keep silence

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

4:5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

4:6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

