

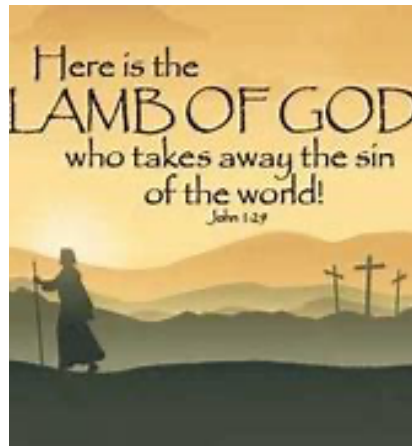


The United Church of Bethel
An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA

2nd Sunday
After Epiphany
Jan 15, 2023

The Brick Church c.1816
Embarking upon our
3rd Century of Service in Christ

Tom Harty, Pastor
Becky Kondi - Keyboard
Larry Nobile - Guitar & Vocals
Stoddard/Apelquist Family – Tech Team



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Our Faith is 2000 Years Old; Our Thinking is Not

The United Church of Bethel

Whoever you are, Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.

✠ = *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.

P We lift them up to the Lord

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

P It is right to give him thanks and praise

L There are no words for what this testimony means only the wonder at how it feels like grace.

P We celebrate the prophets and visionaries; in story and song, we awaken to the sound of one voice.

L There is no way to know what this following will take only the hope that it is leading us deeper into the heart of love.

P We cherish the risk-takers and the tide-turners: in prayer and praise, we witness to the sound of voices two.

L There is no telling when the struggle will end,

P We become the movement and the liberation: in worship and wrestling, we create the sound of all of us.

Invocation & Lord's Prayer

✠ **Hymn** NCH 351

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

Prayer of Confession

L In this moment of stillness, feel for the rhythm of your own pulse listen to the cadence of your own breath.

P When we lose touch with our own flourishing, Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.

L In this moment of stillness, feel for the rhythm of another one's pulse listen to the cadence of another one's breath

P When we lose touch with the celebrations and struggles of our neighbors, Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.

L In this moment of stillness, feel for the rhythm of the pulse of justice for all listen to the cadence of the breath of love

P When we lose touch with our collective liberation, Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.

The United Church of Bethel

Whoever you are, Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.

Assurance of Pardon

L Thrill and rejoice, people of God: God's grace and love meet us at every turn, no matter where our journeys lead.

P Praise God who gives us each the chance to be epiphanies of redeeming love and liberating justice.

Passing the Peace

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

*R I delight to do your will, O my God,
I delight to do your will.*

✠ Gloria Patri

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Choral Anthem

✠ Gospel:

John 1:29-42

✠ Hymn NCH 35

O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder

Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

Offering

✠ Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

✠ Hymn NCH 295

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

✠ Benediction

✠ Choral Benediction

Postlude

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength- he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

PSALM 40:1-11

- ℟️ I delight to do your will, O my God, I delight to do your will.*
- † *I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.*
- † *He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.*
- † *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.*
- † *Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.*
- ℟️ I delight to do your will, O my God, I delight to do your will.*
- † *You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.*
- † *Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.*
- † *Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.*
- ℟️ I delight to do your will, O my God, I delight to do your will.*
- † *I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."*
- † *I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.*
- † *I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.*
- † *Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.*
- ℟️ I delight to do your will, O my God, I delight to do your will.*

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).