

Bethel United Methodist Church
MARCH 6 2022

PRAYERS

- ς Lil Leary
- ς Dagmar Geidel
- ς Beth Shelby
- ς We pray for Ukraine and all countries in the grip of war.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ς Today, **March 20**, directly after worship, we will inter the ashes of Paul Geidel
- ς Immediately following we will have a **Church Council meeting**. All are welcome.

ς **Prayer and Conversations** Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm @ Bethel;
Thursday
6:30-7:30 pm @ Woodrow.

ς **Sundays in Lent @ 4 pm Devotional Study on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87516031052?pwd=RjkrVVNCR21LaUdFTDFraU5nRi9nZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 1603 1052 Passcode: 969270

Dial by your location 1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 875 1603 1052

ς **Contemplative Worship service** recording is added to our FB page Wednesdays around 7 pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bethelumcsiny>

ς We are looking for people who were **married at Bethel!** Call us!

ς **Mobile Pantry:** Tuesdays: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

ς **Offering:** mail/bring to church or give through PAYPAL.

(<https://tinyurl.com/2p99xyw8>)

ς St. Paul's is looking for volunteers to help with their **Food
Pantry**. [\(718\) 227-2485](tel:7182272485)



PRELUDE

Bea Jay

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and hear the stories.

We come to hear the stories of other people

People in another world, long ago.

Come and hear the stories.

We come to hear the stories about us.

Our stories, happening right now.

Come and worship.

OPENING HYMN “*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*”

#126 UMH Words: Johan J. Schultz Music: Bohemian Brethren’s Kirchengesänge Public Domain

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.**

With healing balm my soul is filled

**and every faithless murmur stilled: To God all praise
and glory.**

**The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and
blessing.**

As with a mother's tender hand,

**God gently leads the chosen band: To God all praise
and glory.**

**Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied
raises.**

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,

**both soul and body bear your part: To God all praise
and glory.**

**Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone: To God all praise and glory.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of steadfast love, Imagination of the ages: Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead to peace and service to you. Free us to live into our stories, which will tell of the wonder of you working in our lives.

In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Marcia McFee

God of all stories, we bring our lives to you,
the Author of all life.

We confess the ways in which we have accepted another narrative—

one that tells us we will never be good enough.

Forgive us, Lord,

for the falsehoods we accept in exchange for your truth.

We wait with bated breath to hear your narrative for our lives.

Tell us the story of your love again. Amen.

Silent Prayers may be offered

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In every moment, God seeks what is best for us, continually offering us peace, hope, and forgiveness.

We will bless God in every moment, rejoicing with the One who fills us with steadfast love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven Hallowed be Thy name! Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our

daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who

trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

HYMN "A Prayer for Our Times"

*Words: Tom Lough, referencing a prayer by Bishop Reuben Saenz, Jr. ©2022 Tom Lough
Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870 Tune: Morecambe. Used with permission.*

God of all nations, thank you for your care.

Show your salvation. Answer this our prayer.

We pray an end to war and peace to reign.

Be with your faithful servants in Ukraine.

Fam-'lies with children fleeing now in fear,

Be their strong refuge. Show them you are near.

Send forth your angels, taking charge in love.

Send wisdom to our leaders from above.

We pray also, for places torn by war:

Mauritania, Mali, and Darfur

Uganda, Cameroon, Somaliland

Lord let us not forget these other lands.

Lead all your churches in this quest for peace.

Have mercy, hear our pray'r and grant relief.

Bring comfort, hope, and strength we ask again.

We pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 63:1-8

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

John 4:4-24

May these readings from the Psalms and John inspire us to live for love.

Thanks be to God!

THE WORD PROCLAIMED “Stories” *Rev. Bette
Johnson Sohm*

RESPONSE HYMN “*Be Thou My Vision*”

#451 UMH

Words: Ancient Irish trans: Mary E. Byrne 1905; versed: Eleanor H. Hull 1912, alt. Music: Traditional Irish Melody ; harm.:Carlton R. Young 1963 Alt © 1989 The UM Publishing House; harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!**

**Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

THE OFFERTORY “*I Love to Tell the Story*” Richard
Bartels, soloist

Bea Jay, musician

DOXOLOGY

#95 UMH

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God’s love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GATHERING SONG “*Song of Hope (Canto de
Esperanza)*” #2186 TFWS

Words: Alvin Schutmaat Music; Argentine folk melody Irregular with Refrain Tune: Argentina

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with
all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear
Christ's call.

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

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Go now; turn to the Lord, and let his thoughts fill your minds.

Do not

expend your resources on that which cannot satisfy, and do not become overly sure of yourselves, lest you fall into temptation. Instead seek the Lord while he may be found, and take the path to freedom that opens before you. And may God's love fill your story; May Christ Jesus help you to find the narrative; And may the Holy Spirit fill your life with people who fill your life.

**We go in peace,
and the sure knowledge that love is the heart of the matter.**

POSTLUDE

Bea Jay

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