



Bethel United Church of Christ  
Fifteenth Day After Pentecost  
**RALLY DAY**  
September 13, 2020  
Tune to FM 92.1 on your car radio

*"What do we want to tell the children? We want to tell them that Jesus calls them to him and loves them just the way they are."*

*Ann Weems, Reaching for Rainbows*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING MUSIC**

*"Love the Lord"*

Bethel Praise Team

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsive)*

Today we gather to celebrate our children.

**Today we gather to celebrate those who teach them.**

Today we gather as Bethel, the community who welcomes everyone.

**Today we praise God with song and voice; with joy and laughter; with prayers of love.**

Praise God for this glorious day!

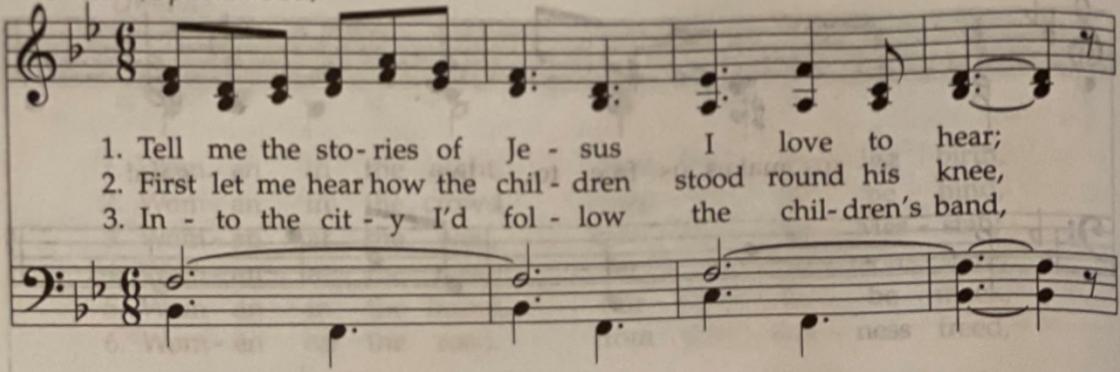
### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION** *(unison)*

**Gracious God, on this beautiful morning, we all would love to come as children-humble, innocent, spontaneous and trusting. We come ready to heart your Word and be moved to action. We come to celebrate, sing and dance your praises. Let us learn from our children how to be joyful, unafraid, curious and loving. Be with us today as we become as children in our worship of you. Amen.**

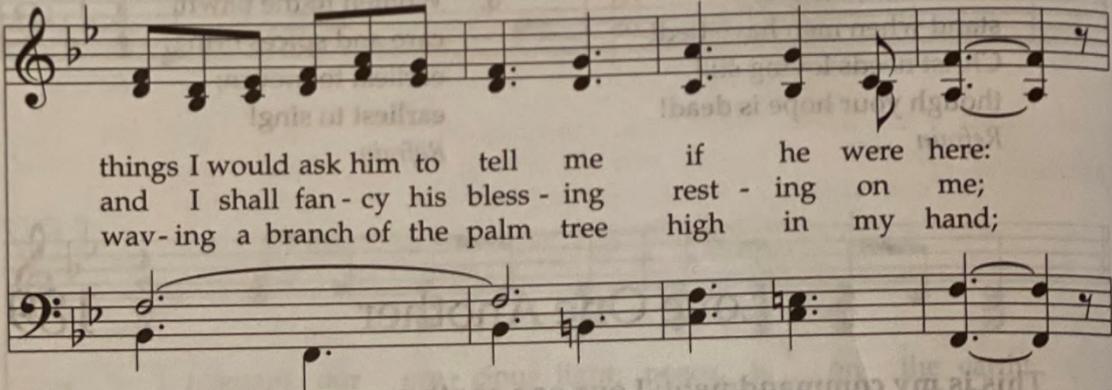
### **OPENING HYMN#190**

*"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"*

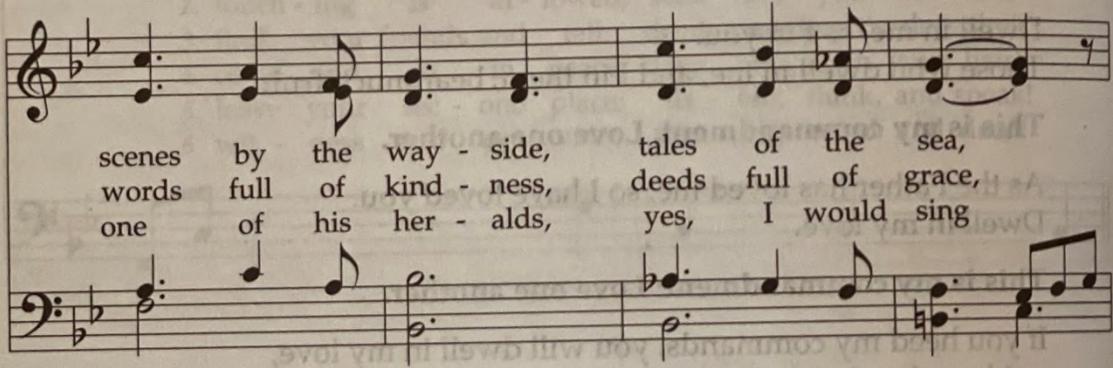
## Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

*Unison (Optional S.A.)*


1. Tell me the sto-ries of Je - sus I love to hear;  
 2. First let me hear how the chil - dren stood round his knee,  
 3. In - to the cit - y I'd fol - low the chil-dren's band,



things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
 and I shall fan-cy his bless - ing rest - ing on me;  
 wav-ing a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;



scenes by the way - side, tales of the sea,  
 words full of kind - ness, deeds full of grace,  
 one of his her - alds, yes, I would sing



sto - ries of Je - sus, tell them to me.  
 all in the love - light of Je - sus' face.  
 loud - est ho - san - nas, "Je - sus is King!"

## **OUR SACRED STORIES**

### **Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

### **Matthew 18:21-35 (The Message)**

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?" Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven. "The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market. "The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt. "The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!' "The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king. "The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."



# I Love to Tell the Story

480

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of  
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what  
3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to  
seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to  
hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when, in

tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my  
tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal -  
scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old

long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
va - tion from God's own ho - ly word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill  
sto - ry that I have loved so long.

be my theme in glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER** (*forgive us our sins...*)  
**RESPONSE#305** "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

305 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The lyrics are: 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your spir-it in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. grace!'. The score includes a first ending marked '1 (optional)' and a final ending marked 'Final'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your spir-it  
in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. grace!

**OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Invitation

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

*"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

Chad Willis, piano

by Mark Hayes

**CLOSING HYMN#511**

*"Strong Gentle Children"*

# Strong, Gentle Children

Unison G C/G G C/G

1. Strong, gen - tle chil - dren, God made you beau - ti - ful,  
 2. Strong, hurt - ing chil - dren, an - gry and ter - ri - fied,  
 3. Strong, know - ing chil - dren, ut - ter your cry a - loud,

Bm Em7 Am7 D

gave you the wis - dom and pow - er you need;  
 op - en the se - crets your life has con - cealed;  
 hon - or the wis - dom God gave you at birth;

G C/G G C/G

speak in the still - ness all you are long - ing for;  
 though you are wound - ed, know you are not to blame;  
 speak to your el - ders till they have heard your voice;

Bm7 Em7 Am7 D7 G

live out your call - ing to love and to lead.  
 cry out your sto - ry till truth is re - vealed.  
 sing out your vi - sion of heal - ing on earth.

**COMMISSION & BENEDICTION** (*edited from Reaching for Rainbows by Ann Weems*)

Children of God, we affirm your childlikeness, your spontaneity, your wonder, your curiosity, your joy in the abundant life, your humbleness and your unashamed love of the Lord. Each of you is a child of God and God knows your name.

**God knows when we skin our knees or our hearts, when we catch a butterfly or cry in the darkness.**

Go children, out where the sun shines on your faces. Go out into God's abundance and tell the story of a Christ who would claim each person as a child of God.

**Let us go kiss the hurts of this world and laugh in the fields of God.**

For we are embraced by Christ, inheritors of God's grace and love. And let the people shout:

**We love to tell the story of Jesus and His love! Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Heavenly Sunlight"*

by Mark Hayes

Chad Willis, piano

If you brought a picnic lunch for yourself or family, please find a spot either on the hill, or in the parking lot, practicing the 6' distancing. Please put on your masks whenever you leave your chosen spot.