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Facebook: Bethel United Church of Christ – Kansas City  
**Bethel United Church of Christ Bulletin**  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 21 2021

*"...the mystery of ministry is that we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional love the gateway for the unlimited and unconditional love of God."*

Henri Nouwen, 20C

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**                      *"Noel's Galliard"*      Anthony Holborne arr. Steve Rosenberg      Bethel Recorders

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

So much is about to happen. Are we ready?

**Jesus will enter Jerusalem, there will be a uproar in the temple.**

There will be breaking of bread, draining of the cup and betrayal...

**It helps that God has put the law within us and written it on our hearts.**

Become more than just a church. Become the people of God.

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

**God of all time and places, draw us closer to your presence so we can find ourselves. Abide with us.**

**Strengthen our hearts for the drama of the cross. Hold out the hope once more of the resurrection. Make us willing to walk with you through storm and calm and testify to the power of the Good News of Jesus Christ in all circumstances. Today we glorify your name, O God. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN#288**                      *"O God of Vision"* (vs. 1&2)

## OUR SACRED STORIES

### **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **John 12:20-33**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and

dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*"A Clean Slate"*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"Autant En Emporte Le Vent"*

Pierre De la Rue

Bethel Recorders

**MESSAGE**

*"The Days are Surely Coming..."*

Rev. Karen J. Aitkens

**HYMN#288**

*"O God of Vision" (vs.3,4,5)*

# O God of Vision

288

1. O God of vi - sion far great - er than all hu - man schem -  
2. Pour out your Spir - it on all now as - sem - bled be - fore  
3. Grant to us in - sight, O God, for this time of de - ci -  
4. Break the sun's rays in - to col - or, a rain - bow a - round  
5. Grate - ful, we come now by Christ's in - vi - ta - tion clear - spo -

1. ing, gath - er us now in your pres - ence, re - fresh - ing, re -  
2. you. May our di - ver - si - ty here be a means to a -  
3. sion. May we dream chal - leng - ing dreams of both depth and pre -  
4. us. Storm clouds, though real and near, are not e - nough to con -  
5. ken. We seek the nour - ish - ment found in fruit crushed and bread

1. deem - ing. Show us a - new life in your breath - tak - ing  
2. dore you. Wom - en and men, young, old, and youth - ful a -  
3. ci - sion. Speak through the dark. Dis - pel by light - ning's bright  
4. found us. Arched in the sky, beau - ty and pro - mise are  
5. bro - ken. Christ for us all! Come, let us an - swer the

1. view, love - ly be - yond all our dream - ing.  
2. gain, make us as one, we im - plore you.  
3. spark what - ev - er clouds dim our vi - sion.  
4. high, giv - ing us hope to as - tound us.  
5. call, of - fering our lives as the to - ken.



**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER** (*forgive us our sins...*)  
**CHORAL RESPONSE#304** "Into My Heart"

304 Into My Heart

The image shows a musical score for a choral response. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus; come in to - day, come in to stay, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus."

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

Invitation

Offering "Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major" J.S. Bach/arr. Steve Bernstein Bethel Recorders

Response of Praise

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God above the heavenly host.*

*Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Prayer of Dedication

**CLOSING HYMN#467**

"Fill the World with Love"



# Fill the World with Love

Unison C Am7 Dm G

1. With the vi-sion in our minds of how the world could be, and the  
 2. All the peo-ple in this world liv-ing lives of pain and fear, cry - ing  
 3. We whose spir-its long to share, long to com-fort and to heal, know that  
 4. Let us hes-i-tate no long-er in our doubt and our dis-may; there's a

C Em Dm G

full - ness of our hearts from the suf - fer - ing we see; when we  
 out in - to the night, won-d'ring when some-one will hear; while there  
 when we act a - lone, hope is dif - fi - cult to feel; but to -  
 pow'r at work with-in us that has pro-mised a new day. And the

Am Em Dm Em

make all that we are and have part of God's des - ti - ny, we can  
 are so man - y oth - ers hav - ing so much they can share, can we  
 geth - er as we la - bor God's com - pas - sion to re - veal we will  
 time will sure - ly come, it will not be long de - layed when God

Dm G Dm7 [1,2,3] G

fill the world with love, we can fill the world with love.  
 fill the world with love, can we fill the world with love.  
 fill the world with love, we will fill the world with love.  
 fills the world with love, when God

Dm [4] G C Dm7 C

fills the world with love.

**COMMISSION/BENEDICTION**

The covenant is written on our hearts.

**We are God's people.**

Go from this place with the love of God, the hope of Christ and the peace of the Holy Spirit in your hearts. And let the people say,

**Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"The Honeysuckle"* Anthony Holborne srr. Steve Rosenberg Bethel Recorders