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Facebook: Bethel United Church of Christ – Kansas City
Bethel United Church of Christ Bulletin
Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 2021

"In the best prophetic tradition Jesus stood for the relief and protection of the poor and persecuted...he saw that the real troublemakers were not the ignorant and cruel, but the intelligent and corrupt. He knew that "love your enemies" didn't mean "don't make any!"

William Sloan Coffin, Credo, c2004

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord"

Bethel Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

We have gathered to hear the Word and be in communion with God and each other.

Christ calls us into discipleship, to carry on His work in our world.

We come together today, joining hands and hearts to build up the body of Christ.

Come, let us worship God, love each other and serve the world.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(unison)*

O God, we rejoice that you are with us today. Open our hearts and discipline our will. Teach us to follow your perfect ways. As you did with the money changers in the temple, drive us from unholy living and turn us toward your holy light and share your story of redemption with friends and strangers. Amen.

OPENING HYMN#5

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

5

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease;
3. My lov-ing Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro-claim,
4. Glo-ry to God and praise and love be ev - er, ev - er given

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of God's grace!
'tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

OUR SACRED STORIES

Mark 11:15-18

Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?
But you have made it a den of robbers."

And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

"Overturned Tables"

Rev. Karen J. Aitkens

HYMN#115

"There is Something About That Name"

There's Something About That Name 115

Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! There's just some-thing a - bout that

name! Mas - ter, Sav - ior, Je - sus! Like the fra-grance

af - ter the rain. Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! Let all

heav-en and earth pro - claim; kings and king-doms will

all pass a - way, but there's some-thing a - bout that name!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER#307

307 The Lord's Prayer

Unison

Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en,
hal-low-ed be thy name. Thy king-dom
e-vil: for thine is the king-dom, and the pow-er,
and the glo-ry, for-ev-er,
heav-en. Give us this day our dai-ly bread, and for-

give us our debts, as we for-give our debt-ors. (may be omitted)
And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion but de-liv-er us from
e-vil: for thine is the king-dom, and the pow-er,
and the glo-ry, for-ev-er,
A-men, A-men.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation

Offertory

Response to Praise

"the Power of Your Love"

arr. Carol Tornquist

Chad Willis, piano

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

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (have your bread and cup with you)

416 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
2. Here would I feed up - on the bread of God;

here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
here drink with thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;

here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load;

and all my wear - i - ness up - on thee lean.
here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.

Words of Institution

Blessing (in unison)

Gracious God, we ask that you bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal make us the body of Christ, the church, you servant people. Let us be the salt, light and leaven to bring Christ's message of peace, hope, justice and love to all the world. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

God of Abundant Life, at this table we have touched, we have tasted and we have heard the signs of your love for all. Grant that we may take that love out into our workplaces and neighborhoods so all can experience it. Give us courage to live in ways that celebrate life. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN#495

"Weave Us Together" (2x's)

Weave **495**

Weave, weave, weave us to- geth- er. Weave us to- geth - er in

u- ni- ty and love. Weave, weave, weave us to - geth- er.

Weave us to - geth - er, to - geth- er in love.

COMMISSION/BENEDICTION+

Go on! Get out of your comfort zones! Jesus calls us to teach about God's power and light.

We leave our homes to go out into the community to tell others this amazing story.

Go on! Get out of your routine. Share how God has transformed you and invite others to follow.

We will invite others to share our journey!

Go on! Get out into the world. Turn over some tables and share how God has brought you to the wisdom of new ways, new opportunities, new life...and let the people proclaim:

We go with joy in our hearts to bring justice to the world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

arr. Mark Hayes

Chad Willis, piano