



Bethel United Church of Christ Bulletin-
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 27, 2020

Tune to FM 92.1

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"So much of who we are is where we have been."
William Langewiesche, 20C

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG *"Let the River Flow"*
Bethel Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP+ (*responsive*)

What does this worship service need?

Moments where faith can grow, songs that blossom hope, scripture that remembers love, meditations and gifts offering service of the heart.

Who shall come to this worship?

All who have prayer in the center of their lives and all who are lonely for the touch of God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION+ (*unison*)

Gracious God, like a loving parent you nurture, encourage and challenge us to grow in grace. Forgive our failures and show us once again our possibilities. Prepare us to be servants of your will and agents of your love to all the world. Amen.

OPENING HYMN#18

"All People that on Earth Do Dwell"

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
 2. Know that there is one God, in - deed, who
 3. En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise, with
 4. Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose

out your faith with cheer - ful voice; de - light in God whose
 fash - ions us with - out our aid, who claims us, gives us
 joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex - tol and bless our
 mer - cy is for - ev - er sure, whose truth at all times

praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.
 all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.
 God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

WORDS: William Kethe, 1561, alt.
 MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
 LM

Alt. tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (altered rhythm)

OUR SACRED STORIES

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Controlling Our Emotions"

Pastor Karen & Marty

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Give Thanks"

Bethel Praise Team

MESSAGE

"Challenging God's Authority"

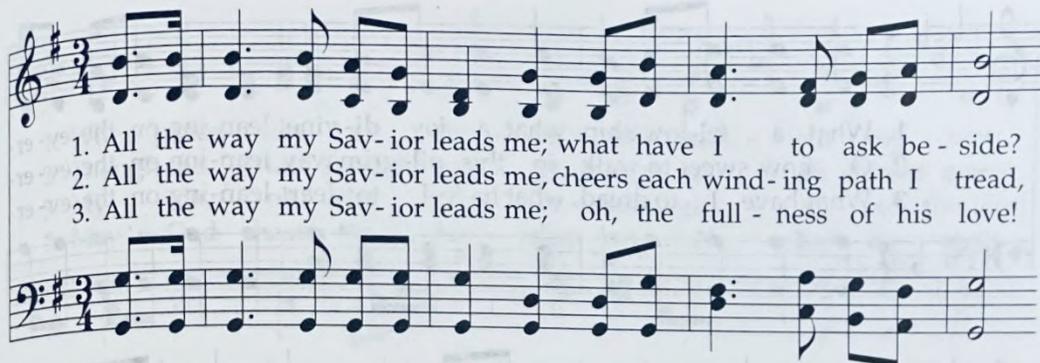
Rev. Karen J. Aitkens

HYMN#559

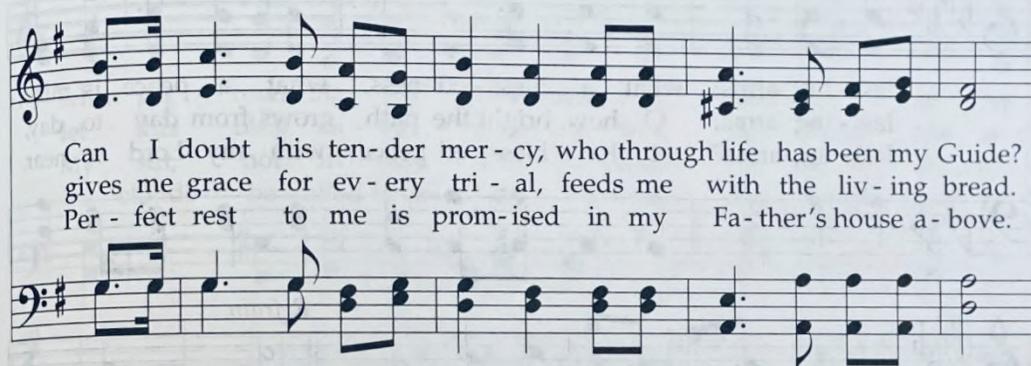
"All the Way My Savior Leads Me" (vs. 1&2)

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

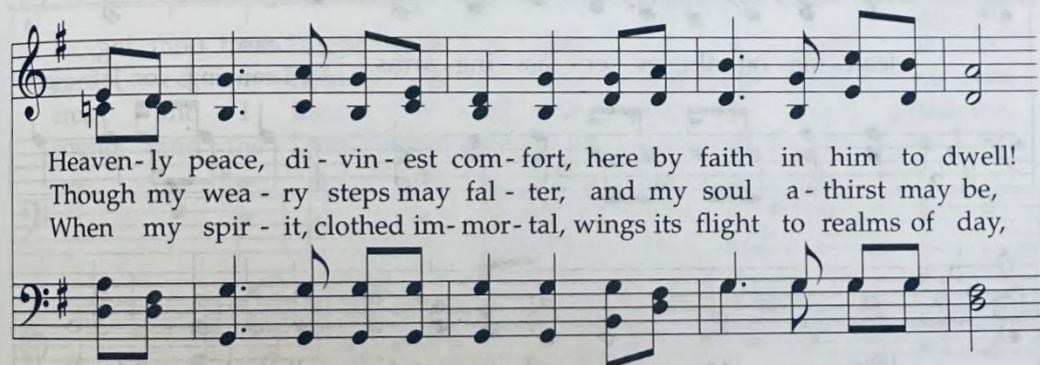
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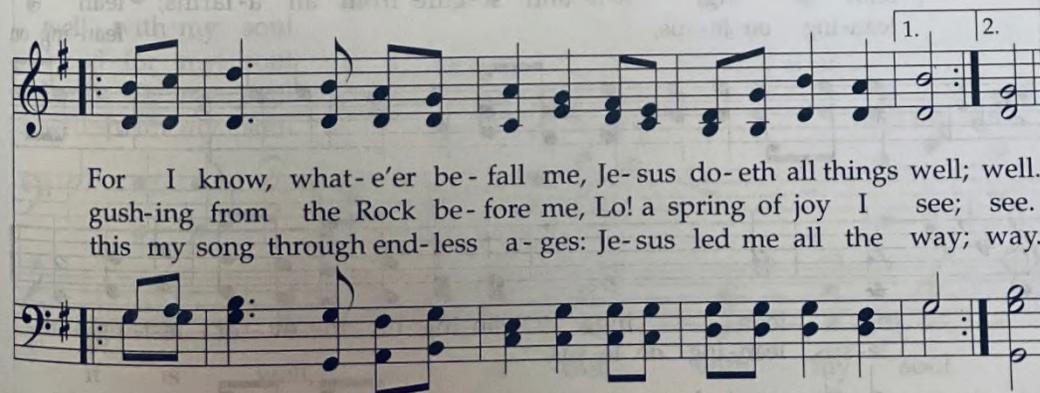
1. All the way my Sav-ior leads me; what have I to ask be-side?
2. All the way my Sav-ior leads me, cheers each wind-ing path I tread,
3. All the way my Sav-ior leads me; oh, the full-ness of his love!



Can I doubt his ten-der mer-cy, who through life has been my Guide?
gives me grace for ev-ery tri-al, feeds me with the liv-ing bread.
Per-fect rest to me is prom-ised in my Fa-ther's house a-bove.



Heaven-ly peace, di-vin-est com-fort, here by faith in him to dwell!
Though my wea-ry steps may fal-ter, and my soul a-thirst may be,
When my spir-it, clothed im-mor-tal, wings its flight to realms of day,



For I know, what-e'er be-fall me, Je-sus do-eth all things well; well.
gush-ing from the Rock be-fore me, Lo! a spring of joy I see; see.
this my song through end-less a-ges: Je-sus led me all the way; way.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875
MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1875

ALL THE WAY
87.87D w. repeat

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/LORD'S PRAYER (*forgive us our sins...*)

Each petition will end with "Gracious God". Congregation responds: **'Hear our prayer.'**

RESPONSE

"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 one flat (Bb) 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 first and final endings for the final phrase.

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!

1 (optional) Final

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation

Offertory

"Deep River"

arr by Will Ayton

Bethel Recorder Quartet

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN#713

"God of Our Life"

God of Our Life

1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, we trust in you;
 2. God of the past, our times are in your hand; with us a - bide.
 3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low you;

in all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your hand we view.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom - ised land; be now our guide.
 when we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; our faith re - new.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
 With you to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
 Be now for us in life our dai - ly bread,

we own your mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 and faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

WORDS: Hugh T. Kerr, 1916; alt., 1928
 MUSIC: Charles Henry Purday, 1860; harm. John Weaver, 1986

SANDON
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 harm. © 1990 John Weaver

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

We leave our time together trusting in God's promise "I am always with you."

We promise to serve God with patience and passion.

We have been planted in God's garden to grow in faith and trust that God is always present.

We leave knowing the love of God surrounds us, the grace of Christ goes with us and the communion of the Holy Spirit lives in us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Let Everything That Has Breath"

by Mark Hayes

Chad Willis, Piano

+from Touch Holiness, Duck & Tirabassi, United Church Press, 1990