



**Bethel United Church of Christ
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2020**

**Tune to FM 92.1
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STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." 1John 4:7

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"Beloved: Love the Children"

Gary Pierson

OPENING MUSIC

"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

Bethel Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) *adapted from Psalm 134*)

Everyone who serves God come and offer thanks.

Thank you God for your love for children.

Shout praises to God for you are God's servants.

Thank you God for your love for me and my neighbor.

Praise the name of our God who is kind and good.

Thank you God for your love for creation.

God's love endures forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Generous God, we thank you for all the love you have given us in our lives, our children, our neighbor and our creation. Most of all, we thank you for Jesus who came among us to show us how to live out your love in our lives. He was the perfect steward of all your gifts. He showed us that complete trust in you brings hope and that giving of ourselves is what you have called us to do. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. Amen.

OPENING HYMN#66

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (vs. 1,2,3)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

66

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all prais - es we ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 that on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of love and compassion. Transform our self-centered ways into self-giving lives of faith, service and joy. May your love blossom and grow in our lives as we go out into your world to shared the blessings we have received. Remind us that we are beloved by you and called to share our love with all that is precious to you. In the spirit of Christ Jesus, may it be so. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDEON

RESPONSE#305

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send you spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

OUR SACRED STORIES

1Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

1John 4:7, 17-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Above All"

Bethel Praise Team

MESSAGE

"The Three Great Loves"

Pastor Karen

HYMN #467

"Fill the World with Love" (vs. 1 &4)

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE *"Three fold Amen"*

Amen....Amen....ah, ah, ah, A-men.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation

Offertory *"How Great Thou Art"* arr. Craig Curry, Chad Willis, Piano

Response *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#56

"God, Your Blessings Overflow!"

to the tune of "For the Beauty of the Earth"

God, your blessings overflow!

What can we begin to say?

How can we begin to show

All our gratitude this day?

God, we join to worship you,

Giving thanks for all you do.

Thank you for the life you give,

For each friend and family,

For the land in which we live,

For your love that sets us free.

Thank you, God, for daily bread,

And for feasts of joy you spread.

So we join in thanks this day,

And your gifts we freely share,

So we follow Christ the Way,

Loving, serving everywhere.

Spirit, may our lives express

All our daily thankfulness.

COMMISSION/BENEDICTION

God, you have called us to be stewards of your abundance.

We are called to be the caretakers of all you have given us.

As we leave today, may we use your gifts wisely, share them generously and lift up
the Three Great Loves:

Children, Neighbor and Creation!

May our labors of love bear fruit and our way of life be the way of Christ. Go in peace!

Beloved, let us love one another! Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Love Devine All Love Excelling" arr. Craig Curry, Chad Willis, Piano



Beloved, Love the Children.

“Grown men can learn from very little children, for the hearts of the little children are pure. Therefore, the Great Spirit may show to them many things which older people miss.” – Black Elk 1863-1950

How often have I found myself amazed at the simple wisdom of children? Children have a profoundly different perspective on how they see the world – if only we could see the world through their eyes! Jesus tells us in our sacred texts that we must become like little children to enter the kin-dom of heaven. (*Matthew 18.3*)

In 2019, Skyland Community United Church of Christ, through their Love of Children, reached out to the broader community to create a photo exhibition. Located in the Santa Cruz mountains of California, the congregation invited children ages 4 – 11 from the community to submit photographs. Over 80 children participated in the “My World in the Santa Cruz Mountains” exhibit. People from all ages attended the exhibit reception replete with milk and cookies. Each participant was valued as an artist and encouraged to talk about their submission.



All enjoyed the playful and profound perspectives of their world in the mountains through the eyes of the children.

What might we learn about one another, our communities, and especially our church if we were to see them through the eyes of a child? Do they feel heard... seen... valued? How do they know they are ‘beloved’?

As you reflect on stewardship in our church, think about these things. How do your actions express your love of children? Are children engaged in ways that also inspire us? What do they teach us about love? Nelson Mandela reminded us, “Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future.” Beloved, Love the children.

WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361

