

# BEULAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 14, 2023  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### PRELUDE

“Prelude from Suite 1 in G Major for Cello”

J.S. Bach

### GREETING, WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP and OPENING PRAYER

As a hen gathers her brood under her wings, God desires to gather us together.

**Gather us, O God. We are here to worship and sing your praise!**

Let us pray:

**Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, help us to choose life in you, that we may keep the commands of Jesus, follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and witness to the hope that is within us, sharing Christ's love in the world. Amen.**

### \*Hymn

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

#395

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Brothers and sisters, God not only asks us to repent, but also assures us of forgiveness.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to the one who is steadfast love.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we are quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to blame. We fail to offer others the same grace we receive from you. We hold ourselves up as superior and fail to address the patterns of dominance we perpetuate. Forgive us. Help us seek understanding and compassion. Help us accept the love you offer us and share your love with others. Wash us in the water of life that we may live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

(Silence is observed.)

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ transforms, redeems and renews. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**\*THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

**ANTHEM**

“A Canon of Praise”  
(Chancel Choir)

Natalie Sleeth

**ENCOUNTERING GOD’S WORD**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*(Children are invited to participate in activities at the Playground area  
in front of the pulpit for the remainder of the service.)*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate: Open our hearts and minds this day, entice us with your presence. Spark us with a word of life – a message that we may share with others as we seek to live Christ’s love in the world. All this we ask in the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson 1 Peter 3:13-22

2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson John 14:15-21

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“Truth and Beauty”

Pastor Bill Owens

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

**\*Hymn**

“There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”

#824

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.” Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**Call for the Offering**

God, the divine giver, gifts us with life and breath and all that is.

In gratitude, let us offer our gifts in return for the goodness and grace of God in Christ.

**Offertory**

**\*Celebrating God's Generosity**

Hymn #609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**O loving God, we give you thanks that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to keep your commands. Bless these gifts and use them to reveal to all tribes, nations, and peoples your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**GOING IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#366

**\*CHARGE and BLESSING**

May we leave this house of worship strengthened by the Spirit,  
renewed by God's grace, and reminded that the Body of Christ  
surrounds us for help, comfort, and support.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God  
the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us now and always.

**Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“BWV 559”

J.S. Bach

*Go in Peace*

*A special word of thanks to all those who helped make the worship service possible.*

*It is good to be together!*

*Remember in Prayer*

*Beth Biller, Lorna Pierce, Laura Foster, Ron Vaughn, Joy Brands, Suzi Criscoe,  
Rev. Don Seeger*

*All those who are Care Givers, all those affected by tragic world events and  
Jake Rutledge, Jake Mohn, William Bland, Dylan Brooks, Jeffrey Schmidt,  
and all Service Personnel and their families.*

## **Welcome! We warmly greet all who have come to worship God.**

**We are so glad that you are here.** We hope that joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. Here at Beulah our mission is transforming lives through the love of Jesus Christ – that simple and that challenging. We realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, and we know we are a work in progress. If you are new to Beulah, we hope you will join us again and consider attending any of our mission, fellowship, and education opportunities. God's peace to you today.

**Membership** ~ If you have any questions about membership, please call the church office at 502-239-3231 or email [carol@beulahpres.org](mailto:carol@beulahpres.org).

**Learn more** by visiting us on our website at [www.beulahpres.org](http://www.beulahpres.org), and on our Facebook page at Beulah Presbyterian Church.

**Assisting in worship** ~ Pastor Bill Owens; Liturgist Lori Witherspoon; Music Director/Accompanist Kim Karchenes; Chancel Choir; Sound Crew, Brent Dellacoletta and Jim Harris.

**Virtual Ministry** ~ Please follow us on our Website [www.beulahpres.org](http://www.beulahpres.org), Facebook, Instagram@beulah\_pres, and YouTube to stay up to date on upcoming events, view previous worship services, live stream services, and see what's happening in the life and ministry of Beulah!

**Listening Devices** ~ The Sanctuary is equipped with Listening Devices for persons with hearing difficulty. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**Electronic Devices** ~ In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please power off cell phones and other electronic devices so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.

**Large Print Worship Bulletin** ~ If you or someone you know needs a large print bulletin of today's service, please ask one of the ushers and they will assist you.

