

BEULAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

“Prelude in E Flat Major”

Jacques-Nicholas Lemmens

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**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place; we come today to rest in you.

You have been the voice that guides us; we come today to listen.

You have been the host who feeds us; we come today to be filled.

You have been our joy and crown; we come today to sing your praise!

Let us pray: Now, in the silence, when we struggle to control our lives, may we, once again, empty ourselves of our pride and fears, to be filled with your hope. Now, in these moments, when we cannot let go of our worries and doubts, may we, once again, open our hands to hold your faith. Now, on this day which is only and always your gift to us, may we, once again, live into your kingdom. Now, as we lift our hearts to you, God in Community, Holy in One, we once again pray as we have been taught saying, “**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.

***Hymn**

“Here in This Place”

#401

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that once again, we have done what is evil in your sight. We've made mistakes. We've made missteps. We have hurt people, by action and inaction. We have wounded creation, by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over yours, by action and inaction. And if the sum total of what we have done and what we have not done adds up to evil in your sight, then in your sight we ask you to turn us towards goodness. Forgive our past, and shape our future that we might build your kingdom here. In the strong name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Silence is observed.)

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is our God? Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

We are forgiven, rescued and redeemed. Alleluia! Amen.

***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

“Thanksgiving (A Medley of Hymns)
(*Chancel Choir*)

Craig Curry

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

Holy Spirit, your wisdom guides us deep into the mystery of your truth. Speak to us today, that we might understand your will and walk in your ways. In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

1st Lesson Psalm 90:1-6, 12

2nd Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

3rd Lesson Matthew 25:14-30

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

SERMON

“Investing in the Work of God”

Pastor Bill Owens

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (adapted from the Confession of 1967)

God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of our life. It is the will of God that God’s purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from creation. Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

***Hymn**

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

#687

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

Call for the Offering

Offertory

*Celebrating God's Generosity

Hymn #606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Generous God, with Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we are reminded to give you thanks for the ministries of this congregation which you have entrusted us with. We are honored by the opportunity to be your holy body here. Bless these offerings, however they are given that our efforts may be ever more worthy of your name. Amen.

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

#716

*CHARGE and BLESSING

Friends, go in peace, and be peace.

Go in hope, and be hope. Go in faith, and be faithful.

And as you go, may the grace of God cover you,
the love of Christ shine within you,
and the Spirit's courage propel you forward,
this day and forevermore. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

"The Rejoicing"

George F. Handel

Go in Peace

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

It is good to be together!

Remember in Prayer

*Alex Sinclair, Mary Hockenberry, Ron Vaughn, Beth Biller, Suzi Criscoe, Bill Anderson,
Verna Williams, Rev. Don Seeger, Jake Mohn, William Bland, Dylan Brooks, Jeffrey Schmidt,
and all Service Personnel and their families.*

All those who are Care Givers, and all those affected by tragic world events.

CCLI#20544224 & 20544

*Sympathy to Dana and Jeremy Gardner upon the death of Jeremy's father,
Rodney Gardner, on November 14, 2023.*

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.

Learn more by visiting us on our website at www.beulahpres.org, and on our Facebook page at Beulah Presbyterian Church.

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

Virtual Ministry ~ Please follow us on our Website 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.



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155 Years of Faith & Service