

# Beulah Presbyterian Church

## April 25, 2021

*Let us center ourselves, still our voices and focus our hearts,  
that through reflection and music we may be prepared to worship God.*

### REFLECTIVE MEDITATION AND MUSIC

*Christ, you beckon us to come, and follow you. May each step be one on that journey. Amen.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us on new journeys, leading us in faith.

**Give us courage to answer your call, O God.**

God breathes new life into stagnant places.

**We open our heart to receive your Spirit, O God.**

God remakes our lives, calling us to service.

**We welcome your transforming power, O God.**

Come on the journey of faith.

**We come with joy to worship the living God!**

### HYMN

*Standing on the Promises*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Giver of life, we have not thanked you enough for each breath we can take,  
each moment we live, each experience we enjoy or endure.**

**We are more likely to complain than to appreciate,  
to wallow in cries of agony and loss than to pour out joy and gratitude.**

**We repeat our mistakes instead of learning from them.**

**We try to keep you out of our lives instead of turning to you daily and trusting your  
providence.**

**Turn us around, God; we want to experience the confident joy of living for you Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVING GRACE

Hear the good news: God has offered you new sight. God is claiming you as a beloved servant. God has given you brothers and sisters to love. Reach out to feed and care and follow where Christ leads. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

### PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### READING OF GOD'S WORD

Psalm 100

Matthew 26:26-30

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

**SERMON**

*Saying our goodbyes*

Rev. Dr. Diane M. Baldwin

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**LITANY OF FAREWELL**

from the *Book of Common Worship*, PC(USA)

**Statement of Purpose**

The church, like any community, changes. Babies are born. Children grow up. Loved ones and friends grow old. Dear ones die. People move into the community and church. Others leave us, moving on to new places or opportunities. Let us not forget that the ministry in this place is Christ's ministry, entrusted to us as part of his Body. This ministry belongs to Jesus and is ongoing. When a pastor comes into the church, we covenant with one another; we promise to walk together as God's People, deepening our commitment to Christ and growing closer to God. God's covenant with us never changes, but our covenants with one another do change. We gather now to mark the ending of the covenant between Rev. Diane M. Baldwin and Beulah Presbyterian Church.

**Prayer**

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

In your world,

In this community,

**Be present Christ.**

In this congregation,

In this presbytery and the whole world-wide Church,

**Be present Christ.**

In the homes and hearts of all your people,

**Be present Christ.**

Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:

For work begun but not completed,

**Christ, have mercy.**

For expectations not met,

For wounds not healed,

**Christ, have mercy.**

For gifts not shared,

For promises not kept,

**Christ, have mercy.**

Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:

For friendships made,

For joys celebrated and for times of nurture and growth,

**Thanks be to God.**

For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given and promises kept.

**Thanks be to God.**

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, our mission and ministry in the Spirit, and for the love of God which has sustained us,

**Thanks be to God.**

On April 15, 2018, you called Rev. Diane M. Baldwin to serve as your Pastor. You now are called on to release her from the pastoral duties of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place and for you. Do you, the members and friends of Beulah Presbyterian release Pastor Diane from service as your Pastor?

**We do, with thanks to God.**

Do you, Pastor Diane, recognize and accept the completion of your pastoral ministry with this congregation?

**The witness of the Presbytery**

Representing the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, I witness these words of thanksgiving, forgiveness, and release. The presbytery rejoices with you in the ministry you have shared, and we pledge to you continued support and prayer. With thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation and the ministry of God's servant Diane, and with hope for God's abiding grace in the years to come, this pastoral relationship is now dissolved.

**Closing Prayer**

Loving God, Alpha and Omega,  
you are both beginning and end.  
Our endings and our beginnings  
are rooted in your love.  
Whether near or far,  
we are held close by your love,  
and kept safe from any lasting loss.  
Let our time together end with your blessing.  
Touch all memories with your grace and peace.  
Help us to live with courage and gladness  
in the future you present us.  
In every time and place,  
may we offer you our highest and our best.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Alleluia! Amen.

**BENEDICTION**