

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

July 19, 2020

PRELUDE

“Nimrod”

Edward Elgar

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Lord prepare our hearts to receive your message.

People: Your word will bring renewal and strength.

Pastor: Guide us in a path that follows your will.

People: Bring us closer to you through your love.

HYMN #15

“All Creatures of Our God and King” (verses 1 - 4)

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright,
chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds such blessings on our way,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION - Lay liturgist – Karen Dobbins

Leader: The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you. And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and only treat others the way you wish to be treated. Do not initiate divisions, but rather let us bring peace to our hearts and to the world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) - Lay liturgist – Karen Dobbins

God, forgive us when we are shallow, seeking a quick blessing or a fast favor from you without being willing to invest fully in a trusting, committed relationship with you. Forgive us when we are one-sided, asking always for mercy and compassion, but not returning the same. Forgive us when we approach you begging for guidance and direction, but then neglect to follow your instructions. Forgive us when we cry out with our pressing questions, but then stop listening for your answers. Amen.

Leader: Let us in silence confess our own personal sins. (Silence)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Unison) - Lay liturgist – Karen Dobbins

Our God is a God of love. Our God is a God of mercy. As we seek forgiveness it will be given in love. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison) - Lay liturgist – Karen Dobbins

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 139:1-12 - Lay liturgist – Karen Dobbins

SOLO

“God that Madest Earth and Heaven”

David Thorne (pub. 2006)

Jeff Tabor, tenor

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 8:1-17

SERMON

Dr. Bob Spratt

HYMN #291

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

INVITATION TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH - Lay liturgist – Karen Dobbins

Leader: Let us remember to support Christ’s church.

People: Thank you Lord for your many blessings. They come in many ways and we praise the name of the Lord Jesus who made it possible for us to return to your ministry a portion of what you have given us. Thank you, Lord, for all that you give, all that we are, and all that we will be in Jesus’ name. Amen.

HYMN #836

“Abide with Me” (verses 1-4)

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	7/19	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom/Facebook Live)
Sunday	7/19	11am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)
Wednesday	7/22	10 am	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday	7/22	4 pm	Organ Task Force meeting - (Large Hall)
Thursday	7/23	7 pm	Bethany Choir - (Zoom)
Thursday	7/23	7pm	Deb Petersen's group (Zoom)
Saturday	7/25	10am	Bethany Women (Zoom)
Sunday	7/26	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom/Facebook Live)
Sunday	7/26	11am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)

LIFE GROUP OPPORTUNITY

A Life Group is a small group (ideally 8-10 people) who gather regularly to grow in faith and fellowship. At Bethany, we have had three Life Groups—two of whom study/discuss Christian books, and one which studies/discusses the Serendipity Bible. The format of the group and the topic/book choice is decided by the members of the group. Life Group 1 has decided that its group has run its course and will not be starting back up in September. If you would like to begin or be part of a new Life Group 1, please contact Carrie Buri at theburis@yahoo.com or (716)390-8941. Thank you!

Bethany's Virtual Coffee Hour is cooking with Gas!

Each Sunday after our live worship service we have a 30 Minute Virtual Coffee Hour where you will have the opportunity to talk with other members of our church family face to face in small groups of about 6 people! Remember we ask that you turn on your PC camera so we can all see your smiling faces, so be sure to wear your best PJ's!!

Here is an image of the group from a Sunday's Coffee Hour. All went very smoothly. Once you get online we break out into smaller groups so everyone gets a chance to talk or just listen, as you choose.

If you are having troubles using Facebook and or Zoom to watch the live Worship services or to join our coffee hour, please contact the church office at 663-3000 and they will get you in touch with someone who might be able to help.

Keep Safe, Stay Well and Be Kind,
God Bless, Ron

Join Zoom by phone only by calling +1 (646) 558-8656 on your land line or (646) 558-8656 on your cellular phone (there may be a long distance charge) and enter the following Meeting ID# 243 911 4010 when prompted, followed by the # sign.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2439114010>



Bethany Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

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