

Worship AT HOME



BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song: "Unstoppable God"

Opening Prayer

"Heavenly Father, we are gathered in Your Almighty presence, as Your people. There is no other God like You. You are full of love, mercy and forgiveness. You invite us into relationship with You, and You restore Your creation to Your best plan. You are the God who heals what is broken, who brings joy where there is heartache. Your ways are blameless and holy. And with all that, YOU have invited US – Your people – to join You where You are at work in our world. Almighty God, we are humbled before You. Surround us with your presence. Fill us with Your Spirit's power. We know Your plans are best. Amen

God's Greeting

Song of Response: "He is Lord"

Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: I hold up all my weakness to your strength, my failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the Cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived, without cowardice and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love.

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart:

that desiring you, we may seek you;
and that seeking you, we may find you;
and that finding you, we may love you;
and that loving you, we may hate those sins
from which you have delivered us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Song: "O Come to the Altar"

Prayer of Confession continued

Heavenly Father, we bow our lives before You. We admit that so often we act as if we are capable and in-charge. Our mouths say we love You, but so often our actions betray us. We say we love our neighbors, but out of fear we keep Your love to ourselves. We say we care for Your kingdom, yet so often we try and build our own. You trust us with resources to steward, but so often we're tempted to care more for our own comfort. And we get so easily sucked into our culture's expectations of pursuing "good things," but ignore Your commands to join you where You're at work. Father, forgive us, we humbly ask. Create in us a pure heart. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation. We truly want to be re-aligned with Your agenda in our world. We are grateful for Your new life, but bow before – and recommit ourselves to – Your plans and purposes in the lives of the people of our world. And so we pray together, as one voice, the prayer You used to teach us to pray, Lord Jesus:

(UNISON) The Lords Prayer

Song: "Be Thou My Vision"

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Spring Prayer:

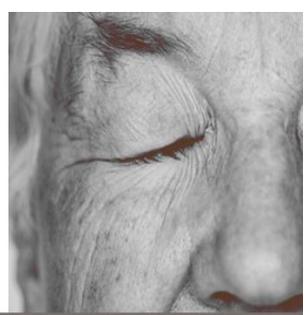
Dear God: Spring is a metaphor for change. Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor. Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes we ask the gift of Your perspective beckoning us to expectation, hope, and rebirth. May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray
Bless this spring season,
Rich and teeming with life
God bless our labor
As we dig, turn, and plant this soil
God bless these plants
May they flourish like hope, transforming
God bless the rains
That water these plants and nourish our work
God bless the harvest
From the grace of God, grows our generosity,
God bless this growing season,
As you bless all creation with your love. Amen.

A Prayer during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Almighty God,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend,
You who sit enthroned over the flood—
We are staggering in the surf of
bad news, and worse news,
while an invisible menace laps at our doorstep.
Father of all mercies have mercy on us.
We are anxious, exhausted, angry, and sad.
We need your peace that surpasses understanding
to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Be our refuge and strength;
be our very present help in this time of trouble.
Even in this trouble we thank you:
for green Spring, for new life that refuses to
wait for death's shadow to pass;
for technology that unites exiles and draws
the solitary near;
for your church that prevails in quarantine;
for your own Holy Spirit who is socially
present with us, always.
Forgive us, Lord:
for hating our unwashed neighbors in our heart;
for opening our hearts to unfettered fear;
for closing our hearts, and our pockets,
to any in need;
for loosening our grip on your precious and
very great promises
Assure us, our Gracious Redeemer:
that our sins are nailed to the cross of Jesus;
that we are clothed in the righteous
white robes of Christ;
that you will never leave us nor forsake us;
that nothing – **nothing** – can separate us
from your love.
Great Physician, we pray for those most
vulnerable to this virus:
for the elderly, the weak, and those with
chronic conditions;
for the poor, the hungry, and the isolated;
for those already infected.
Deliver them from this evil,
and prevent the rest of us from carrying it to them.

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We pray for the caregivers on the front lines:
for doctors and nurses and healthcare workers;
for police and firefighters and government officials;
for parents in the home and pastors in the church:
Guard and guide them; shield and sustain them.
We pray for the newly unstable:
for those who have lost jobs, lost businesses,
lost savings, lost homes;
for those facing the likelihood of losing even more—
Hide them in the cool shadow of your wings;
provide every good thing for them
that you, as a good Father, know they need.
Indwelling Spirit empower your people to serve:
to get wisdom, and live by it, and share it freely;
to embody peace amid the strife of tongues;
to present our bodies as living sacrifices;
to suffer with Christ in patient endurance.
Give us all fresh confidence that there is:
no future where you are not present,
no sorrow where you are not near.
And so we trust you, our generous Provider:
if the curve does not flatten,
to present our bodies as living sacrifices;
to suffer with Christ in patient endurance.
Give us all fresh confidence that there is:
no future where you are not present,
no sorrow where you are not near.
And so we trust you, our generous Provider:
if the curve does not flatten,
if the market does not pull up,
if the shelves go empty,
and if all our accounts drain to pennies—
Even still, let us rejoice in the Lord, our strength;
let us take joy in the God of our salvation.
In the name of Jesus we ask, Amen.

Song: "It is Well"

Children's Blessing: [Children's Video](#)

Offering: *Bethel Budget & Ministry Shares*

Prayer for Illumination

Hearing God's Word

Scripture:

Psalm 34

Message:

"Seeking the Lord"

Song of Response:

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying."

Prayers of God's People

God's Blessing

Closing Song: "The Blessing"

Online Update

We will be livestreaming from our Facebook page via this link:

[Direct link to the service](#)

You can also watch it later thru Vimeo, through our [website](#), or on [RightNow Media](#)