



BETHEL CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
4135 Norrisville Road
White Hall, MD 21161
Office Phone: 410-692-5282
Website: www.bethel-md.org

Contact Rev. Todd Smith via his cell: 410-805-8604
or email: pastor@bethel-md.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Office is CLOSED on Fridays.

Staff

Pastor/Moderator: The Rev. Todd D. Smith
Music Director/Organist: Kirsten Fitzsimmons
Children's Youth & Family Program Coordinator: Chrissie Galliher
Office Manager: Lisa Robbins
Church Treasurer: Dan Miller



September 19, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

*Our worship begins with the organ voluntary.
Please silence all electronics and be prayerfully attentive to the quiet presence of God.
+ indicates standing; congregational readings/responses are shown in **bold print**.*

Gathering and Welcome Rev. Todd Smith
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Voluntary Jacob's Ladder
Take My Life
By Scott Underwood

Call to Worship Lynda McRee

Leader: What does the Holy One require of us?
People: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

+ Hymn *Brethren We Have Met to Worship*

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Who taught us to pray, "Our Father..."

(Silent prayer of confession)

Church Leadership

Elders (Session) – Meet 3rd Thursday each month

Class of 2021

Robert Dennison
Kirk Jones
Carol Morrow

Class of 2022

Marsha Brooks
Gary Lowe
Carmie Messenger

Class of 2023

Ruth Walker
Polly Winskowski
Nancy Alexander

Deacons – Meet 1st Monday each month

Class of 2021

Marylin Bradford
Sue Hinkley
Sandy Louderback
Barbara Thomson

Class of 2022

Janet Henderson
Terri Schwarz
MaryLee Swift

Class of 2023

Laurie Falkner
Gail Lowe
Lynda McRee

Trustees – Meet 1st Tuesday each month

Class of 2021

Jan Berlage
Eric Clayton
Dave Hinkley
Don Scott

Class of 2022

Sam Fielder
Bob Horn
Steve Kauffman
Chuck Saneman

Class of 2023

John Cairnes
Brian Calary
Bruce Mattheiss
Craig Messenger

The 2021 Per Capita fee per congregation member is \$36.06.

Please be sure to submit your portion by the end of the year.

Thank you!

This Week's Sermon:

Many years ago, in a homiletics journal I came across this commentary on John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world..." stands there against all our attempts to narrow and make specific God's love. Even when we are tempted to narrow the scope of God's love by turning his love into one that only supports our cause, our viewpoints, our church. Even when we are tempted to restrict the scope of Christian love to Christ and the church, we cannot get past the fact that love is the most adequate description of God's attitude toward all creation. His love is not and should not be exclusive to us. It is why even Jesus urges us to treat our enemies with love, because it is exactly through eyes of love that they are viewed by the Father.

"For God so loved the world..." is the beginning of a declarative statement. It is a given. Not only is God's love unconditional for all people, it takes on particular meaning for the individual. It is also unconditional for you and for me. We tend to treat grace as if it were conditional, as if God will love us only if we meet some condition. If we are righteous, we feel God will love us more. If we are educated and literate, God will love us more. God is not distant and unconnected from creation. God loves this creation in time and history and God loves us unconditionally. It is this type of love that Jesus is calling Nicodemus to receive, and it is also this kind of love that is ours through the grace of our Lord. The reality is that God loves us despite our sin and he continues to love and sustain us unconditionally.

"For God so loved the world..." is the beginning of an introduction by the Gospel writer to the reader of God's plan for redemption — that love is the reason for God's continued actions to redeem and restore creation. God in Jesus Christ comes to save and to redeem. God gave himself in Jesus Christ with the desire and intention to redeem us. "For God so loved the world..." that he acted in Jesus Christ. Despite our attempts to narrow the focus of God's love, and our inability at times to accept it unconditionally, the fact of the matter is that when we open ourselves up to the power of the divine, God from above creates in us a new heart; indeed we are reborn from above. When we feel that love and know that grace, we are motivated to the same kind of compassion, hope, and love for all creation and for all of God's children. As we are linked in Jesus Christ to God, so we begin to share his love for creation and bring into the service of that love all of our gifts and talents and desires.

Today we dig into this popular verse from a fresh perspective.

Announcements

This Week at Bethel:

September 19th Cemetery Tour - noon

September 19th Zoom Bible Study – 6:00 pm

September 21th Bridge Game – 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

September 23th Breakfast Bunch – 7:00 am in Fellowship Hall

If you would like to list your event in this space, please email me by Monday to be included in that week's Sunday bulletin. Thanks! lisa@bethel-md.org.

Website Update: Please note that there is now a separate “Donate” tab on the website header that you can use if you'd like to make a donation electronically. It should allow you to donate via Paypal or with a credit or debit card. Please let the church office know if you have questions or would like to add or edit anything on the website.

Save the dates:

Sunday, September 26th

Sunflower service – bring a chair and enjoy this outdoor worship service at the Sunflower field at 10:30 am (Sunday school will be held 9-10 am at Bethel Church)

Sunday, October 24th

Bethel Women's Group – Pumpkin Carving at the Fire Pit

Message from the Reopening Task Force:

Bethel's Task Force Committee kindly reminds everyone to be respectful of one's choice to wear a mask.

Let's support each other
with patience and compassion.
Thank you.

Music Notes:

Choir rehearsal will start October 3rd after church from 12:00 - 12:30. All are welcome. Please let Kirsten know if you will attend.

A big **THANK YOU** to MaryLee Swift for her assistance putting today's service together and offering her talent on the piano!

Bethel Joys & Concerns for this Week:

Happy Birthday to Nancy Berigtold, Kathleen Fowler, Christopher Mitchell, and David Thomas

Happy Anniversary to David & Sherry Kirchner (and to Anthony & Deborah Saneman on 9/16 -- Missed that last week!)

Please keep the following in your prayers this week:

The 2 families displaced by fire in Jarrettsville & Whiteford

Doug Arnold

Sandy Hughes

Charles McKenzie, father of Gail Lowe

Nelson Berigtold

Charlotte Scott, sister-in-law of Dan Scott

Barb Kirschner, mother of Dave Kirschner

Ed Calary

Max Montfort, friend of Tom & MaryLee Swift

Dorianne Griffey

Janet Kauffman

George Reeves

Kelly Jarrett Reeves, daughter-in-law of the Reeves

John Louderback

Brendan Lins, grandson of Ron & Andi Holmes

Henry Kraft, grandson of Gail & David Thomas

Frank Clement, friend of Sam & Marsha Brooks

John Dorn, friend of John & Rita Cairnes

Beverly Schmidt

Joe Bradford

George Cowman

Howard Eisner

George Denbow

Jessica Sambor

Debbie Dahl, friend of Lisa Robbins

Kelly Spurlock, friend of Lisa Robbins

Favorite Hymn Sunday

The Worship and Music Committee is excited to announce that **The Favorite Hymn Sunday** will take place each Sunday in October. Please complete the form below and place this sheet in the collection basket.

Name (optional): _____

Hymn and Hymn Number (if known):

Why is this your Favorite Hymn? (optional):



YOU ARE GOD ALONE (Not A God)

By Billy J. Foote and Cindy Foote

You are not a god created by human hands
You are not a god dependent on any mortal man
You are not a god in need of anything we can give
By Your plan that's just the way it is.
(repeat)

You are God alone from before time began
You were on Your throne You are God alone
And right now in the good times and bad
You are on Your throne You are God alone

You're unchangeable You're unshakable
You're unstoppable that's what You are
You're unchangeable You're unshakable
You're unstoppable that's what You are

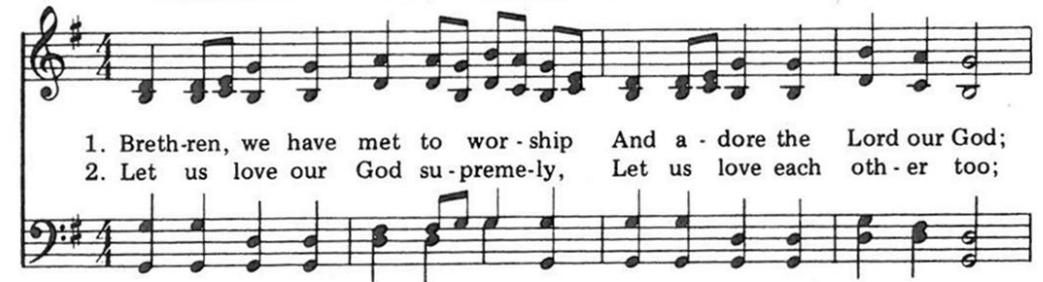
You're the only God whose power none can contend
You're the only God whose name and praise will never end
You're the only God who's worthy of everything we can give
You are God that's just the way it is

You are God alone from before time began
You were on Your throne You are God alone
And right now in the good times and bad
You are on Your throne You are God alone

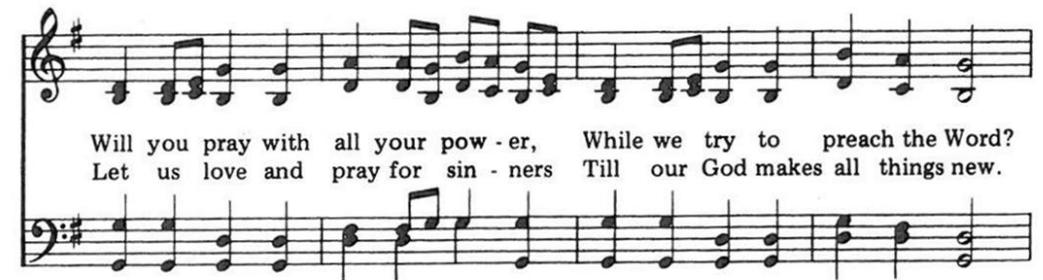
You're unchangeable You're unshakable
You're unstoppable that's what You are
You're unchangeable You're unshakable
You're unstoppable that's what You are

You are God alone from before time began
You were on Your throne You are God alone
And right now in the good times and bad
You are on Your throne You are God alone
And right now in the good times and bad
You are on Your throne You are God alone
You are God alone, You are God alone

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship



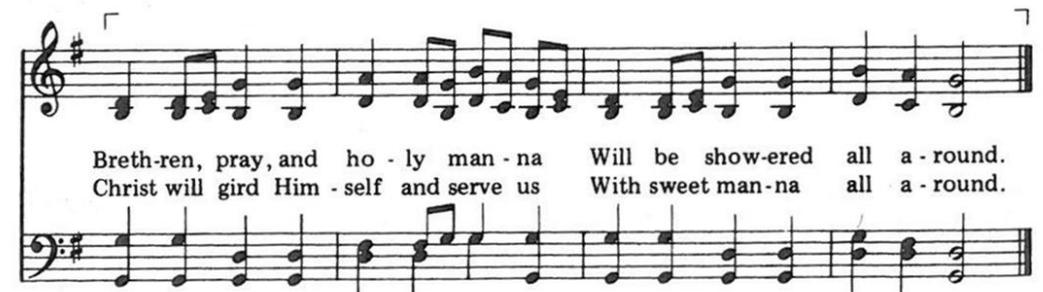
1. Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship And a-dore the Lord our God;
2. Let us love our God su-preme-ly, Let us love each oth-er too;



Will you pray with all your pow-er, While we try to preach the Word?
Let us love and pray for sin-ners Till our God makes all things new.



All is vain un-less the Spir-it Of the Ho-ly One comes down;
Then He'll call us home to heav-en, At His ta-ble we'll sit down;



Breth-ren, pray, and ho-ly man-na Will be show-ered all a-round.
Christ will gird Him-self and serve us With sweet man-na all a-round.

TAKE MY LIFE

By Scott Underwood

Holiness, holiness is what I long for.
Holiness is what I need.
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

Faithfulness, faithfulness is what I long for.
Faithfulness is what I need.
Faithfulness, faithfulness is what You want from me.

So take my heart and form it.
Take my mind, transform it.
Take my will, conform it,
To Yours, to Yours oh Lord.

Righteousness, righteousness is what I long for.
Righteousness is what I need.
Righteousness, righteousness is what You want from me.

So take my heart and form it.
Take my mind, transform it.
Take my will, conform it,
To Yours, to Yours oh Lord.
To Yours, to Yours oh Lord.

So take my heart and form it.
Take my mind, transform it.
Take my will, conform it,
To Yours, to Yours oh Lord.
To Yours, to Yours oh Lord, to Yours!

GLORY TO HIS NAME

By Elisha Albright Hoffman &
John Hart Stockton

Down at the cross where my Savior died
Down where the cleansing from sin I cried
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name

Chorus:

Glory to His name
Glory to His name
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name

I am so wondrously saved from sin
Jesus so sweetly abides within
There at the cross where He took me in
Glory to His name

Chorus

O precious fountain that saves from sin
I am so glad I have entered in
There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean
Glory to His name

Chorus

Come to the fountain so rich and sweet
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior's feet
Plunge in today and be made complete
Glory to His name

Chorus

Community Mission Project

Sunflowers in Jarrettsville

Dates: Sept. 24 -26, Oct. 1-3 and (depending on blooms) **Oct. 8-10**

Times: Friday (1pm-dusk), Saturday and Sunday (9am-dusk)

- Churches and organizations are asked to volunteer and sign up to help with sunflower sales. Follow on Facebook at "Sunflowers in Jarrettsville MD" for more information.
- We sell homemade snacks in baggies for \$1 each. Each church is asked to provide 200 or more baggies containing cookies or brownies, filled amply with 3 or 4 cookies with no nuts, no peanut butter or anything that will melt in the sun.

Please **sign up** to donate cookies or brownies or donate money to buy supplies for our bakers. A signup sheet can be found in the back of the church, or you may contact the church office to let us know how many baggies of cookies you are able to donate. Volunteers are also needed to work at the fields (greeting, cutting, and selling flowers). A link will be emailed for in-person volunteer signups. *Questions? see Ruth Walker*

