Believe!
...in Love
1 John 3:16-24

BETHEL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 25, 2021
Welcome to Bethel Church!
Please observe all COVID precautions set in place for your safety. Although we must refrain from singing, we encourage you to hum the tunes of this morning’s hymns.

PRELUDE  
Let’s Just Praise the Lord  
William & Gloria Gaither  
Arr. by Fred Bock

THE INVITATION OF THE STEEPLE BELL

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN NO. 230  
Now the Green Blade Rises  
NOEL NOUVELET

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid the love by hatred slain, thinking that Jesus would not wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain, who that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, the risen Christ is seen; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children dismissed to Sunday School.

FIRST LESSON  
Acts 4:5–12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be
known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Merciful God, if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Because, if we say that we have not sinned, we make Jesus a liar, and his word is not in us. But, if we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE When Our Hearts Condemn Us (see insert) Words, D. Bucholtz Music, C. Muehlig

SECOND LESSON 1 John 3:16–24
We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SERMON Not Guilty

ANTHEM NO. 677 Let There Be Peace on Earth WORLD PEACE

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
PRAYER OF PETITION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 NO. 284

Gather Us In (vs. 1, 2, and 4)

GATHER US IN

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in – the rich and the haughty; gather us in – the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and AN INVITATION TO SHARE

BENEDICTION

SENDING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

POSTLUDE

A Little Flower, Op. 205, No. 11

Cornelius Gurlitt

* Indicates those who are able please stand

Bold Indicates congregational response

Large print bulletins are available

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When Our Hearts Condemn Us

(adapted from 1 John 3:20)

When our hearts condemn us, God is greater than hearts;

When our tongues betray us, God is greater than words;

When our minds deceive us, God is greater than thought.

For in God is mercy, much more mercy in God than sin in us;

For our God is greater, God's mercy far greater, God is greater than hearts.
WORSHIP ATTENDANTS
Minister: Rev. David Bucholtz
Music Director: Mary Sue Moore
Anthem: Cathy Moore and Jody Munson
Song Leaders: Cathy Moore and Jody Munson
Lay Reader: Alison Robison

ALTAR FLOWERS
Given by Mona Heiler

OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday – 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Exceptions: May 26-June 2

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Mon., April 26  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal
Wed., April 28  6:45 p.m. Memorial Committee meeting
Sun., May 2    9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
Sun., May 9    9:30 a.m. Worship
Tues., May 11  7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee meeting
Wed., May 12   6:30 p.m. Church Board Meeting
Sat., May 15   Newsletter articles are due
Sun., May 16   9:30 a.m. Worship
Sun., May 23   9:30 a.m. Worship
Sun., May 30   9:30 a.m. Worship
Mon., May 31   Memorial Day
# BETHEL PRAYER REQUESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SUBMITTED BY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Skyler Freeman</td>
<td>Amy Ahrens</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Susie Helton</td>
<td>Mary Sue Moore</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family &amp; Friends of Veronica Martin</td>
<td>Kristi Campbell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Russel McDonald</td>
<td>Betty Jean Harper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jim Mshar</td>
<td>Nancy Bihlmeyer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deborah Rose</td>
<td>Fred &amp; Judy Jahnke</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>Jeff Elliott</td>
<td>Anne Elliott</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Heuser</td>
<td>Sarah Heuser</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Margo Roseum</td>
<td>Betty Jean Harper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ron Starry</td>
<td>Ava Goff</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Linda Hinton</td>
<td>Renee St. Charles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family of Dr. Denis Robison</td>
<td>Jim and Alison Robison</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Arica Garza</td>
<td>Renee St. Charles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bailey (2-month-old)</td>
<td>Stacey Neigebauer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mary Knapp</td>
<td>Susan Mann</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family and Friends of Chris Moore</td>
<td>Jean Holder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tino Oliveira</td>
<td>Michelle Jedele</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family and Friends of Michelle Sanders</td>
<td>Renee St. Charles</td>
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<td>Johanna Stephens</td>
<td>Lorraine Desbrough</td>
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# PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Submitted By</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/13/2013</td>
<td>Zachary Steelman, 101st Airborne, U.S. Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017</td>
<td>Henry Arbogast, U.S. Navy Seals</td>
<td>Darlene Kuebler</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/02/2018</td>
<td>Willie Day, U.S. Navy Seals</td>
<td>Jody Munson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/29/2021</td>
<td>Branden Hieber, U.S. Air Force</td>
<td>Bonnie Hieber</td>
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