



BETHEL MURDOCH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 31, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Celebrating 209 years of Faithful Service to Our God

EASTER SUNDAY

We Enter Into God's Presence

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

THE PEACE

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

“SURELY THE PRESENCE”

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.

OPENING SENTENCES

L: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

P: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Glory to you, O God:

you have won victory over death,
raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:

for us and for our salvation you overcame death
and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:

you lead us into the truth.

Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

***HYMN: 232**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, *1 Peter 2:24*
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news of God's promise: *Acts 2:17, 21*
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. .

P: We know that we are forgiven and we can be at peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE: "Gloria Patri"**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.

We Hear God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Easter Cantata: Celebrating God's Love in Jesus Christ

Listen for the voice of the good shepherd, *John 10:3*
who calls you by name.

The Incarnation, Lesson 1 – John 1:1-4, 3:16

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

"Shout for Joy, Loud and Long" vs. 1&2

1 Shout for joy, loud and long, God be praised with a song!
To the Lord we belong--children of our Maker, God the great life giver!

Refrain:

Shout for joy, joy, joy! Shout for joy, joy, joy!
God is love, God is light, God is everlasting!

2 By God's Word all was made, heaven and earth, light and shade,
nature's wonders displayed, we to rule creation from its first foundation.
[Refrain]

The Young Jesus in the Temple, Lesson 2 – Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

"like a child"

1 like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,
like a child and a friend, Jesus comes
like a child we may find claiming heart soul and mind,
like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes

2 like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet,
like a child on the street, Jesus comes
like a child we once knew coming back into view,
like a child born anew, Jesus comes

3 like a child born to pray and to show us the way,
like a child here to stay, Jesus comes

like a child we receive all that love can conceive,
like a child we believe Jesus comes

Jesus' Ministry Begins, Lesson 3 – Luke 4:14-24

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn't this Joseph's son?” they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

“Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley” vs. 1&2

1 Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
he had to walk it by himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for him,
he had to walk it by himself.

2 Jesus prayed for his disciples;
he prayed alone for you and me.
O, nobody else could bear such sorrow;
he prayed alone for you and me.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem, Lesson 4 – Mark 11:1-10

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

1 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates:
 behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Saviour of the world is here.

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart:
 make it a temple set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to you: here, Lord, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel:
your grace and love in me reveal.

4 So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

The Last Supper, Lesson 5 – Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸ He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

²³ Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

"With the Body That was Broken"

1 With the body that was broken,
to the body who proclaim,
by the blood that is life's token,
for the life found in his name:
so the Word-made-flesh has spoken,
and his presence here we claim.

2 In the cross of Christ confiding,
by the cross we bear as sign,
through the Spirit's gifts and guiding,
with these gifts of bread and wine:
so the church in faith abiding
keeps the feast Christ made divine.

4 Fed by breaking and outpouring,
joined in breaking-forth of praise,
given the peace of God's restoring,
sent in peace to live always:
so we show forth our adoring
as God's servants all our days.

Gethsemane, Lesson 6 – Matthew 26:36-45

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

“Ah, Holy Jesus” vs. 1, 2 & 4

1 Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,
that mortal judgment has on you descended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!

2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone you.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you;
I crucified you.

4 Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay you,
I do adore you, and will ever pray you,
think on your pity and your love unswerving,
not my deserving.

Jesus is Crucified, Lesson 7 – Mark 15:16-39

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on

him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: **THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

259 "Amazing Love"

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly;
that I, the guilty one may go free?

Refrain: Amazing Love, O what sacrifice, the Son of God, given for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies, that I might live, that I might live.

And so they watched him die, despised, rejected;
But O the blood he shed flowed for me. *Refrain*

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;
Come, wash your guilt away, live again. *Refrain*

Jesus is Risen, Lesson 8 – Matthew 28:1-3, 5-6

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

"Because You Live, O Christ" vs. 1 & 2

1 Because you live, O Christ,
the garden of the world has come to flower,
the darkness of the tomb
is flooded with your resurrection power.

Refrain:

The stone has rolled away
and death cannot imprison!

O sing this Easter Day,
for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!

2 Because you live, O Christ,
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,
our cages of despair
no longer keep us closed and life-denying. [Refrain]

Jesus Appears to the Chosen, Lesson 9 – Luke 24:45-47, 50-52

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN “Lift High the Cross”**

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. [Refrain]

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. [Refrain]

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. [Refrain]

We Respond with Thanksgiving

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

Blessed be the Lord, who has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Amen.** *1 Peter 1:3*

OFFERING (Please remember to mail your offering to Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church, 9602 Murdoch Goshen Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140)

In the spirit of the first believers, we are called to share our goods in common and contribute to the needs of the poor with glad and generous hearts.

Acts 2:44-46

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures Here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

JOYS & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION – (Please send your joys and concerns to the church email and we will publish them in the weekly ENews)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of endless life and new beginnings, we give thanks for your goodness and steadfast love.

Hear now our prayers: For the church throughout the world, that we may be faithful witnesses to the resurrection, so that all may come to believe and have new life in Christ.

For the people and leaders of every nation, that your boundless grace, which shows no partiality, might bring Christ's reign of peace and justice to all.

For all who are despised, rejected, and oppressed, that they may know the liberating power of the gospel and rejoice and be glad in the day of the Lord.

For those who weep like Mary at the tomb, that their tears of sorrow may turn to cries of joy in the presence of the risen Christ.

For the promise of a new creation, where all creatures may live together in safety and none shall hurt or destroy on your holy mountain.

God our strength and salvation, we pray all these things in resurrection hope, and with the confidence that you have already answered us; through Christ, the one who taught us to say as we pray,

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.

We are Sent Out to Love and Serve

***HYMN: 157**

"I Danced in the Morning"

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. (*Refrain*)

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. (*Refrain*)

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. (*Refrain*)

They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. *(Refrain)*

Blessings and Charge

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours,
this day and forever. *Ps. 118:1, 24*

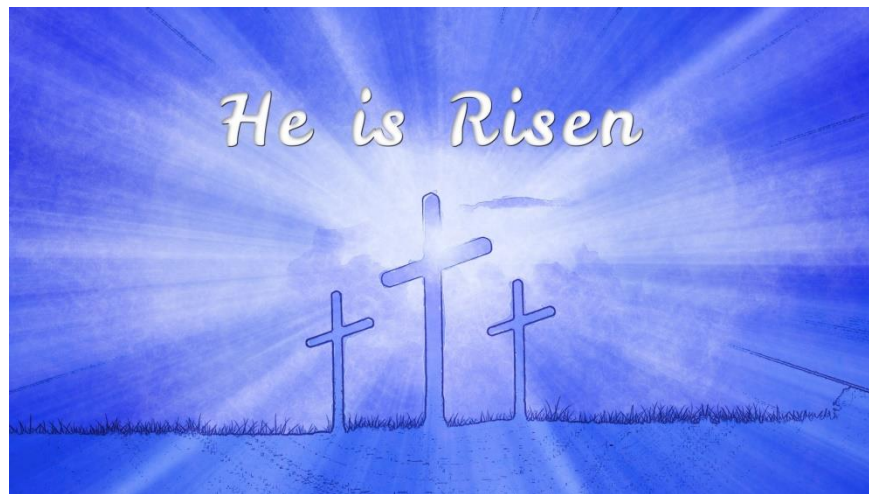
Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Do not be afraid. *Matthew 28:10*
Go and tell this good news to all. **Amen.**

And as you go out, know that you take with you the love of God, the grace
of Our Lord, Jesus Christ and the *awesome* power of the Holy Spirit.

Choral Amen

Postlude



*We would like to thank the members of the Festival Choir
and our Readers: Carol Finnie, Frank Lykins, Jim Redslob and Kathy Flynn,
for leading us in worship.*

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for brunch following the service.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday Brunch

Wednesday, April 3 & 10 at 11:30am – Lunch and Learn

Saturday, April 13 at 9am – Essentials of Spiritual Health

Sunday, April 14 & 21 – Guest Preacher Elder Mike Schepers, Pastor Deb on Study Leave



Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church Contact Information

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We believe that our mission is to:

Bring people to Jesus
Equipping them for ministry
Teach them to love God and others
Heal the brokenhearted in loving family community
Enjoy God and each other
Live worshipful lives