

WELCOME

Heather Harriss

Holy God, help us to be present in worship this day even as you are present. Amen.

PRELUDE*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Victor Labenske
Christy Perkey, pianist

†GREETING

God of long winter nights and our Belmont community, we long for your simple gifts for our lives.

We long for your peace and joy.

We long for your hope and love.

We long for your grace and healing.

We long for your touch and presence.

May we go to you in prayer and find all of these things.

O Lord, open a spring in our lives that daily refreshes us with your simple gifts.¹

†HYMN NO. 545*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

**The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,
she is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.**

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:1-7

Carol Pitman

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON**Serving and Giving**

Paul Purdue

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY OF GAYLE ANDREWS SULLIVAN

(adapted from Administrative Board Resolution)

Gayle Andrews Sullivan began her ministry with Belmont United Methodist Church on January 2, 1990, nearly 34 years ago. During this time, Gayle has planned, prepared, and led thousands of worship services with varied musical selections for voices and instruments that have enriched the experience of musicians, celebrants, congregants, and visitors.

May God's grace continue to bless Gayle's life.

Week by week, Gayle has pursued and consistently achieved a harmony between the music ministries and every other

aspect of liturgy and worship, helping each to complement and support the others. Gayle has planned and directed thousands of hours of rehearsal with Belmont UMC vocal and instrumental ensembles providing opportunities for musicians of all ages and all musical backgrounds to grow together in their musicianship and faith together.

Gayle has heeded the call to “Go Make of All Disciples” by leading tours and community concerts throughout the United States and Canada, touching countless lives of both musicians and those fortunate enough to be present for the concerts offered by various Belmont UMC ensembles outside of our church walls.

We celebrate her faithfulness and her love for our congregation.

Gayle courageously maintained Belmont UMC’s musical traditions and communities through the COVID-19 pandemic by advocating best practices for bringing musicians back together safely, continuing to make music an integral part of weekly worship and annual celebrations during the most challenging days of the pandemic, and reinvigorating in-person worship after pandemic restrictions eased.

We celebrate Gayle’s creativity, fortitude, and steadfast commitment.

Gayle is a tremendous musician in her own right, demonstrating inspiring dexterity in playing each of the 4,078 pipes in Belmont UMC's magnificent pipe organ, 88 keys on our grand piano, and up to 37 bells by herself in a solo handbell piece.

In addition to guiding Belmont UMC’s music program, Gayle has been a vital member of Belmont’s ministry staff and contributed to the church’s ministry in countless ways. She engaged in this holy work with her whole heart, her whole soul, and her whole mind, demonstrating daily her love of God and her love for the hundreds of children, youth, and adults who have been blessed to participate in Belmont's music ministry.

We celebrate Gayle’s generous spirit.

Gayle has taught us to treasure the feeling of God with us that hangs in the moments between the final note of a musical offering and the next act of worship.

We celebrate Gayle Andrews Sullivan for her outstanding ministry, express profound appreciation for her impact on the lives of this church, its members, and our broader community, and pray that God will continue to bless our beloved friend in all the days that follow.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please register your attendance using the QR code.

You may give online at belmontumc.org/give, text BELMONT to 73256, scan the giving QR code, contact Sara Christi to set up a bank draft (bookkeeper@belmontumc.org), or mail your offering to the church, Box 120098, Nashville, TN, 37212.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The celebrant gives thanks, remembering God’s acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues the thanksgiving.

The institution of the Lord’s Supper is recalled, and the celebrant concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The celebrant invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD – SHARING THE CUP

As we celebrate the gift of Holy Communion, everyone is invited.

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. Joel Raney

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

†BENEDICTION

**Lord, we thank you for Gayle, and we welcome Matt.
We know that all ministry belongs to You, and we are each instruments of your ministry.
We pray that the world might better learn your songs.
Lord, send us forth rejoicing! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

arr. Victor Labenske

†You are invited to stand as you are able.

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Edna Thomas by Judy and Tommy Lewis and family.

The rosebud on the altar table celebrates the birth of Sophia Wade Kelley, daughter of Haleigh and Robert Kelley and granddaughter of Amy Smith. Sophia was born January 17, 2024.

¹ adapted by Kate Fields; written by Rev. Abi, on Long and Winding Road. <http://vicarofwadley.blogspot.ca/>.

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Email angie@belmontumc.org to sign up for our weekly “Upcoming Events” and “Belmont News” emails.

Our staff is always ready to assist you!

Go to belmontumc.org/staff for contact information.

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We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We commit to Jesus' example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective.

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