

WELCOME

Church In Bethesda is a multi-denominational, multicultural, open & inclusive community, connecting our city through spirituality, education, and service.

We seek to serve people of all races, genders, ages, cultures, orientations, family configurations, physical and mental conditions, and all other distinctions that make up the beautiful tapestry of God's creation.

Words

In some traditional prayers, hymns, and scripture passages, God is often portrayed as gender-specific. As we pray, sing, and learn together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of God.

SINGING

Awaken The Dawn

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Verse 1

Sing to the Lord with all of your heart
Sing of the glory that's due to His name
Sing to the Lord with all of your soul
Join all of heaven and earth to proclaim

Chorus

You are the Lord
The Maker of all
God of creation we praise You
We sing the songs
That awaken the dawn
God of creation we praise You

Verse 2

Sing to the Lord with all of your mind
With understanding give thanks unto Him
Sing to the Lord with all of your strength
Living your lives as a love offering

SINGING

Better Is One Day

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Verse 1

How lovely is your dwelling place
Oh, Lord Almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You

For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Verse 2

One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells

For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere

Outro

Better is one day
Better is one day
Better is one day
Than thousands elsewhere

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Anna Clements

We're glad you're here! Welcome back if you've been here before, and a very special welcome if you're here for the first time.

CiB Kids

Our program for kids, K through 5th grade happens right now, downstairs. During The Passing Of The Peace, you may take your children there if they would like to join the other kids.

The Passing Of The Peace

This is a time for us to greet one another in the spirit of peace.

NEW TO CIB?

We'd love to stay in touch with you.



A SONG OF CENTERING

Surrender

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Verse 1

Here I am
Down on my knees again
Surrendering all
Surrendering all
Find me here
Lord as You draw me near
Desperate for You
Desperate for You

Verse 2

Drench my soul
As mercy and grace unfold
I hunger and thirst
I hunger and thirst
With arms stretched wide
I know You hear my cry
Speak to me now
Speak to me now

Chorus

I surrender
I surrender
I want to know You more
I want to know You more

Bridge

Like a rushing wind
Jesus breathe within
Lord have your way
Lord have your way in me
Like a mighty storm
Stir within my soul
Lord have your way
Lord have your way in me

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elise and Ryan Phipps

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 for ever and ever.

SERMON

Ryan Phipps

"Sophia"

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

"I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway."

—Sirach 24:1-6

A TIME OF REFLECTION

Jan Fox

Communion

We take time each Sunday to remember the love of God for us symbolized by bread and wine.

Candles

You are invited to light a candle representing a loved one, a sign of peace, a prayer, or a concern.

Giving

We donate financially as gestures of gratitude and worship. You are invited to place your offerings in the box at the back of the room. You may also give digitally by using the QR code on the offering box.

Table Time

This is a time for us to engage with an object lesson to help us further contemplate our lesson from today.

GIVE

Join us in our good work in the world.



Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name

I sing for joy at the works of your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the
promise I have in you

BENEDICTION

Raphael Salamon

a few departing words of blessing as we
head into the coming week

PRAYER

How can we be praying for you?



THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Wiemie Douoguih

This is a time for us to share our celebrations
and concerns with the community.
All are welcome to share.

NEWS

Lisa Dale

Announcements

We have plenty for you to be involved with
and to keep you engaged throughout the
week. Please see the insert include here for
more information.

CLOSING SONG

Shout To The Lord (Chorus)

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Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King

MAY WE PRAY WITH YOU?

After Worship

If you have a need, a fear, a hurt, or a
triumph to share with God, we'd love to pray
with you at the front of the sanctuary after
the worship service concludes.



DECEMBER 31, 2023

WELCOME



SNAP HERE TO
SAVE TREES