

*Congregation is invited to stand.*

Hymn: To God Be the Glory #79

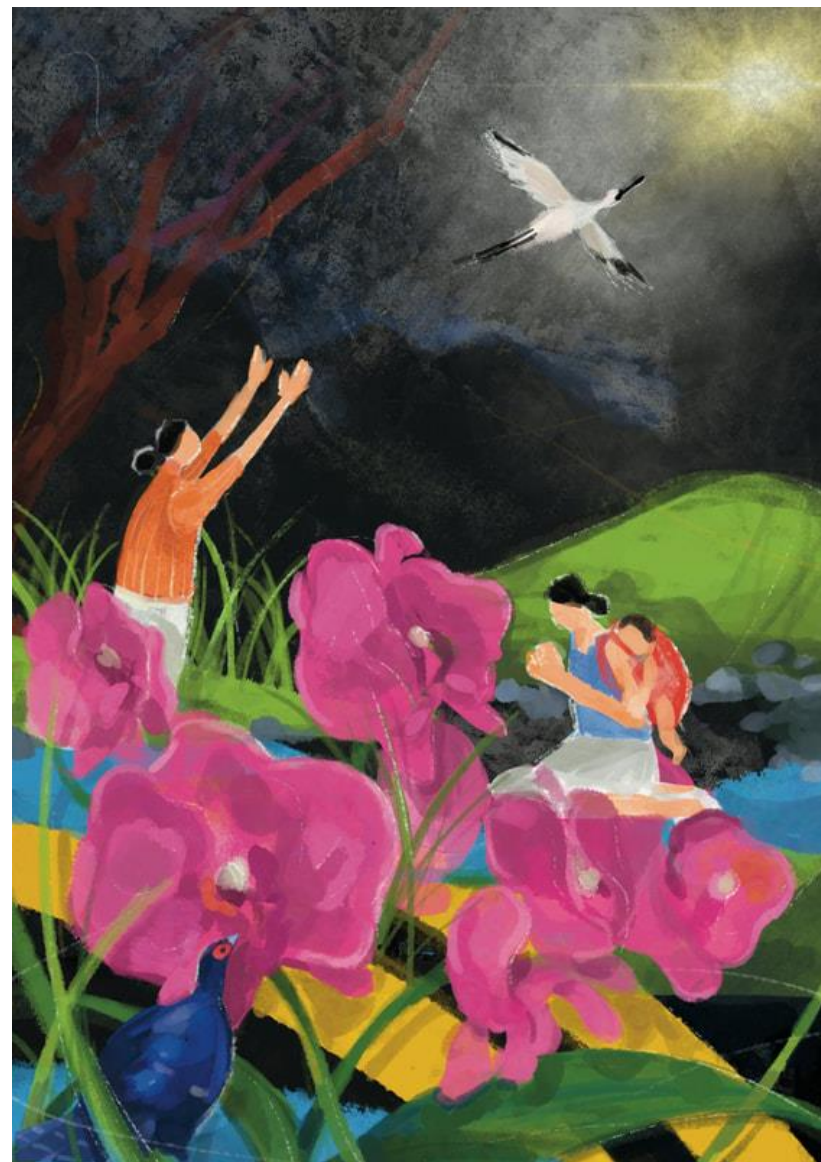
INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**All: The Lord's Prayer**

SENDING AND BENEDICTION

**All: May God hear our stories and keep us in faith. May Jesus grant us wisdom to truly know the meaning of redemption. May the Holy Spirit open our hearts so that we can be a blessing to others. Amen!**

Closing Hymn: Standing on the Promises #181



## Bethel Reformed Church

1295 Kennedy Avenue Little Rock IA 51243

Rev. Scott Van Ravenswaay

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

**March 3**

**7:00 PM**

Hymn: Holy, Holy #50

Welcome and Greetings

Hymn: Love Lifted Me #317

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader 1: Praise to the Lord, we thank God for all the blessings bestowed up Taiwan.

Leader 2: Praise God, the Creator, who created this beautiful island covered with mountain forests and nurtured by the ocean. Taiwan is rich in natural resources.

**All: Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.**

Leader 1: More than one hundred years ago, missionaries came to Taiwan to spread the good news. People heard the gospel and received the grace of salvation.

**All: Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.**

Leader 2: Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Taiwan has been colonized by different foreign forces; and experienced ethnic, cultural, social, political conflict, and integration. By the Grace of God, the people on this island can live in peace. Taiwan shows great hospitality and is willing to help and become a blessing to others.

**All: Gracious God, we thank you and praise you. May your glory be with us.**

Hymn: Blessed Assurance #295

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Reader 1: Forgiving God, we confess our sins to you. We sin against you. We have failed to take care of the land you entrusted to us and have used it in unrighteous ways causing pollution and the extinction of various species.

**All: Oh Lord, have mercy on us.**

Reader 2: Gracious God, we are selfish and arrogant. We have overlooked human dignity; we ignore the needs of minorities, migrants, and immigrants. We hear the cries of the land, women, children, and young people, but we have not done enough to respond to the grace that we have received. These actions have caused some people to suffer and experience oppression.

**All: Oh Lord, have mercy on us.**

Hymn: Open My Eyes, That I May See #174 vs: 1

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader 1: O God, you are faithful and righteous. May you forgive us, cleanse away our sins, and help us live in the light. May you provide us with a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know you and be filled with love and faith. May you reveal yourself to us so that we may know the immeasurable greatness of your power. Amen.

**All: Amen.**

Hymn: Open My Eyes, That I May See #174 vs: 2 – 3

**THE WORD OF GOD AND THE WITNESS OF LIFE**

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-19 (NRSV)

The story of Sister Pao-Chu  
(Silence for meditation)

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God #150

The story of Sister Fen-Jiau  
(Silence for meditation)

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God #150

The story of Sister Jojo  
(Silence for meditation)

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God #150

The story of Sister Pearl  
(Silence for meditation)

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God #150

The story of Sister Daiken  
(Silence for meditation)

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God #150

**RESPONSE PRAYER**

**All: Merciful God, we come to you in our prayers like the faithful women in the letters who told you of their struggles and hopes. They were not defeated by the difficulties but empowered by your wisdom. We are not alone, for you are listening. We thank you for your presence, guidance, and protection as we walk through the valley of shadows. May we glorify you and become a living testimony of Christ.**

(Silence for meditation)

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God #150