

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
February 18th, 2024 1st Sunday in Lent

Lenten Candle Lighting Liturgy: Water

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: We come, so God might open our eyes,

**P: that we may discover the wonders surrounding us;
that we may embrace the joy deep within us.**

L: We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,

**P: that we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us;
that we may sing the melodies of hope.**

L: We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,

**P: that we may walk that street named Enduring Love;
that we may wait at the corner called Faithfulness.**

HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" #26

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

God takes broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives, praying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with you, God of Glory. In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments of silence, of learning. In that flood of worries, which can overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have not cut us off from your grace. In the deserts of our desires, we may ignore that feast of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us.

Forgive us and have mercy on us, Gentle Guardian of our souls. In humility, may we offer our lives to others. In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

**P: In every wilderness, on every road;
in every moment, in every life;
in every journey, in every heart,
we receive the daily bread we need - God's hope, God's mercy, God's joy.**

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

GLORIA PATRI #623

CHURCH NEWS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor by saying, "The Peace of Christ be With You.")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

#625

Prayer of Dedication**

Not tomorrow, but today we are offered the chance to become a part of your healing work, of bringing peace to a broken world, of feeding the hungry, and welcoming the excluded. Today, not tomorrow, we offer our gifts as well as our lives to this ministry of blessing and hope. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Lesson	Genesis 9:8-17	p.7
New Testament Lesson	1 Peter 3:18-22	p.1060
Gospel Lesson	Mark 1:9-15	p.867

MESSAGE

Denise Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostle's Creed

HYMN "It Is Well With My Soul" #493

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Hear our prayers, O Lord. **P: And let our cry come unto Thee.**
L: Let us bless the Lord! **P: Thanks be to God.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Take Time To Be Holy" #441

BENEDICTION**

L: Let us go now, as God's people.
P: May God open our eyes to the wonders of creation and the joy we can offer to those we meet.
L: Let us go now, as followers of Jesus.
P: May he open our ears to the cries of the broken, to the words of hope which others offer to us.
L: Let us go now, as those filled with the Spirit.
P: May we follow the Spirit down Enduring Love Street; may we embrace our sisters and brothers at Faithfulness Corner.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You" #602

**** Rev. Thom Shuman ©
Lenten Candle Lighting Liturgy- Rev. Mindi**

**ORGANISTS: Mr. John Griffin and Mrs. Elaine Bilger
COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero
WORSHIP LEADER: Lily Vozsnyak**

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He that is busy is tempted by but one devil; he that is idle, by a legion.....Thomas Fuller

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"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One."

- Pope Benedict XVI