

Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP December 8th, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: The voice of the Lord declares, "Comfort, O comfort my people".

P: A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

L: The earth will be transformed, God's glory will be revealed.

P: We are all your people and we will wait for You.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – PEACE (RAY SHEETS)

RESPONSE: (Sung to the tune of Away In A Manger)

**A Candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" #96

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: God says to us, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." So let's drop the barriers between us and God and us and our neighbor confessing to God all that keeps us hurting and broken.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, forgive us for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord. Remind us of the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and empower us to be the continuation of the Good News of the Gospel. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION
ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: We have called out to God and God has heard our cries.

P: Our Creator has offered us forgiveness of our sins through Jesus Christ.

L: We have humbled ourselves before him and sought his mercy.

ALL: The Lord is not slow about His forgiveness, but is patient with us, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

GLORIA PATRI

#623

CHURCH NEWS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a hug or handshake or wave saying "The peace of Christ be with you")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

#625

Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God, as we bring our tithes and offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point us to the Christ who comes in love and compassion, with more concern for those who don't have enough and struggle. May our giving in this season

of Advent reflect our hope for a new kind of kingdom to reign in our world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Malachi 3:1-4

New Testament Luke 3:1-6

Message Listen To The Cry Bob Sheehan CRE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "THE APOSTLES' CREED"

HYMN "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!" #562

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 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #124

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Go now: wait and work for the coming of the day of Lord. In the wild places of our lives prepare a straight path for the Lord.

P: We will live lives of holiness and godliness, striving to be at peace, and speak freely of the Lord's coming.

L: May God gather us in his loving arms; may Jesus reconcile justice and peace within us; and may the Holy Spirit baptize us into the life of God.

P: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

WORSHIP LEADER: RAY SHEETS



Offering: 12/1
Attendance: 19
Local 250.00
Benev. 17.35
Improv. 14.65
Total 282.00

Sunday December 8th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Session Meeting After Worship

Sunday December 15th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Church Christmas Party

Session will meet today after Morning Worship.

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the family of Lois Henry who passed away last week.

The Annual Church Christmas Party will be held next Sunday (December 15th) after Morning Worship. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the back bulletin board so we know how many to prepare for. All are invited to attend.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. Join us as we celebrate with songs and scriptures.

Changes and Updates for the church directory are due by Sunday December 29th. Please use the form provided in your newsletter or one of the ones in the back of the sanctuary and place them in the offering plate.

The West End Food Pantry is still in need of staples to keep their shelves stocked. Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the bins by the main entrance. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

Sign Ups for 2025 Lay Leaders are now being accepted. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
The Family of Lois Henry	Nancy Thomas
Dawna Sheets	Dave & Karen Vivis
Jeanne Lehman	Joshua Holbay Family
Marie Whorl	Dominic Serratore
Bev Holbay	Loretta Davidson
Mark Todero	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Carl Newfield	Rodney Gramling
Beverly Rager	Randy Maurer
Mikey Ferante	Edward Spinda
Jill Sheets	Jim & Iva Jean
Frank Cassat	Dan Saylor
JR Bilger	Taylor Short
Linda Hayes	All Shut- Ins
Missy DiPlacido	All in Nursing Homes
Jim Kuntz	All First Responders
Krista Molnar	All Service Men & Women
Bobbie Johnson	All Healthcare Professionals
Bruce Cadenhead	

To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names in the bulletin please email bethanyjtown@hotmail.com.

Visit Our Website (www.bethanyjohnstown.com) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for- the latest news, information and much more!