

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
May 16th, 2021 7th Sunday of Easter

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: From comfortable pews, from tricycle seats, from easy chairs in front of TVs:

P: God gathers us in, giving us the words with which to proclaim the gospel.

L: At kitchen sinks, at laptops and blackboards, at nursing stations:

P: Christ calls us to share in serving all creation.

L: In communities gathered to pray, in memories of those who served, in families grilling in the backyard:

P: The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy.

HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall,

Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!

Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,

To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!

To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng, We at His feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!

We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: We gather as God's people, believing the promises fulfilled in Christ. We do not need to confess out of dread or fear, but in trust that God is faithful to forgive us and make us new. Join me as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: How foolish we are, Calling God, to think we could be happy when we sit in seduction's comfortable seats, and scoff at your call to discipleship; or run down the easy streets of sin, rather than following Jesus; or idolize the celebrities and superstars, and not see you in those who wait on us in stores, restaurants, and sport arenas.

Forgive us, Author of Life. Keep us from our silly selfishness as we seek to become those branches children can climb on; as we hope to provide shade for fellow pilgrims; as we long to be continually nourished by the Living Water of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

We are no longer blown about in the winds of the world, we are grounded, yesterday, today, tomorrow in God's forgiveness, hope and love.

Today, tomorrow, forever: we can bear fresh fruit, sharing God's peace and joy with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

GLORIA PATRI

CHURCH NEWS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication**

As we offer our gifts, remind us that they will be used to heal the broken often lost in the systems we have created, to feed those who don't have the forms filled out correctly, and to bring hope to those who wander the shadowed alleys of despair. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Second Lesson 1 John 5:9-13

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Gospel Lesson John 17:6-19

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed

HYMN "Near the Cross"

Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain—
Free to all, a healing stream—Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross, Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find Rest beyond the river.
Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and Mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star Sheds its beams around me. **Refrain:**

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day, With its shadows o'er me. **Refrain:**

Near the cross I'll watch and wait Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river. **Refrain:**

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

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: From the comfort of this place, to the discomfort of discipleship,

P: we will go to serve your people, Loving God.

L: Weeding community gardens which feed the hungry, tutoring children after school,

P: we will go to wrap others in your grace, Jesus our Brother.

L: Listening to the stories of the ignored, learning the language of our newest neighbors,

P: we will go to discover the truth you share in every moment, Spirit of Wisdom.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God be with you till we meet again;
By His coun-sels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

"God Be With You"

God be with you till we meet again;
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

**** © Rev. Thom Shuman**

ORGANIST : Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Brenda Molnar

**This world is not my home -I'm just a-passin' through.
If heaven's not my home, Then Lord what will I do.
The angels beckon me -From heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home -In this world anymore.
O Lord, you know, I have no friend like you.
If heaven's not my home,Then, Lord, what will I do?
The angels beckon me From heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home -In this world anymore....An old Gospel song**

Offering: 5/9
Attendance: 20
Local 313.85
Benev. 21.75
Improv. 18.40
Total 354.00

Sunday May 16th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday May 23rd
Pentecost Sunday
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Today is the last day for Pentecost geranium orders. See the order form in your bulletin for more information. Additional order forms are also on the back table.

Join Us Next Sunday as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. We will also once again be collecting red non-perishable foods for the West End Food Pantry. Feel free to bring in red foods (canned tomatoes, strawberry jam, spaghetti sauce) or foods in red packaging (Campbells Soup, Royal Pudding).

Today is the last day to update contact information in the church directory. Please take a minute before you leave today to make sure your information is correct on the copy on the back table. If there are any additions, changes, etc. or if you would like to be added to the directory or church E-Newsletter list please fill out a form on the back table and place it in the offering plate.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Don & Marlene Bennett	Elizabeth Kern
Phyllis Pfuhl	Ruby Porch
Harry Thiel	Christine Paratore
Lois Henry	David Hayduk
Ray & Dawna Sheets	Donnie Benito
Al Hockenberry	All Shut- Ins
Waylon Rummell	All in Nursing Homes
Bob & Marie Whorl	All First Responders
Bev Holbay	All Service Men & Women
John Griffin	All Healthcare Professionals

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships are available for all Sundays in 2021. The cost to sponsor flowers for a week is \$25 and the cost to sponsor the bulletin for a week is \$10. If you sponsor both the flowers and bulletin for a week the cost is \$30. Sign up on the back bulletin board at the church or by clicking the link on the church website.

To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names in the bulletin contact Ed Sheets at 539-3495 or email at bethanyjtown@hotmail.com or contact Pastor Denise at 479-2382 or email her at datodero@atlanticbb.net.

Please do not leave them on the church answering machine.

In Case of Emergency, please call Pastor Denise at 479-2382 or cell 248-8174. Do not depend on the hospital contacting the church or the pastor.

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

Pentecost Geraniums Order Form

Orders are now being accepted for Pentecost Geraniums. The cost is \$4 each and we are offering real flowers to be placed in the sanctuary and virtual flowers to be placed in a special webpage on our website. A virtual flower is included with each real flower purchased or you can purchase a virtual flower only. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. The deadline for orders is Sunday May 16th.

NAME:

of Real Geraniums @ \$4 Each = \$_____ (Includes Virtual Geranium)

of Virtual Geraniums @ \$4 Each = \$_____

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Given By: