

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA  
MORNING WORSHIP  
December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**CALL TO WORSHIP \*\***

L: Because of You, Righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem,

**P: trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.**

L: For You, Child Jesus, we wait,

**P: on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry.**

L: With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve,

**P: those for whom this season is not one of joy; those whose lives are empty of family and friends.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - HOPE**

(The Vozsnyak Family)

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

**A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,**

**a candle of hope in December's dark night.**

**While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky, our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: If only our hurtful words, our damaging actions, our foolish choices would just go away. But they don't, and so we offer them, as well as ourselves, to God for forgiveness and for our healing. Please join me, as we pray together saying,

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\***

**The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people. Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole;**

**and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption.**

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.

**P: Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago.**

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**#579**

**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**

**#592**

**\*Prayer of Dedication\*\***

Because of You, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May You use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16 p.683**

**New Testament Lesson 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 p.1030**

**Gospel Lesson Luke 21:25-36 p.915**

**MESSAGE**

**Rev. Jim Farrer**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**HYMN**

**"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

**#124**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and the PASTORAL PRAYER**

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.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** *(Please see bulletin insert)*  
*(All who believe are welcome to join in the celebration of Holy Communion)*

**THE COMMUNION** *(Please hold the elements until all have been served.)*

*After everyone has received the bread, all will say together:*

**The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.**

*After everyone has received the cup, all will say together:*

**The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.**

**\*HYMN** "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts" **#501**

**\*BENEDICTION\*\***

L: Now may our God prepare us to serve our sisters and brothers.

**P: We will devote ourselves to walking with others to Bethlehem.**

L: Now may our Lord Jesus Christ steer us into all the places we do not want to go.

**P: We will throw ourselves into the mission of feeding the hungry, into the privilege of learning from the poor.**

L: Now may the Holy Spirit move us to increase in love for others.

**P: We will take up the cause of justice in every corner of our lives, we will help to bring the kingdom of hope near to everyone around us.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verse #1 #123**

***\*Those who are able please stand.***

**\*\* © Rev. Thom Shuman**

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Lily Ana Newfield**



FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
Advent

**Offering: 11/24**  
**Attendance: 29**  
**Local 953.00**  
**Benev. 65.95**  
**Improv. 55.05**  
**Mem Fund 100.00**  
**Total 1174.00**

**Sunday December 1st**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent/Communion**

**Sunday December 8th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



**Thank You** to everyone who helped decorate the church last week and to those who set up communion for today.

**Orders For Christmas Poinsettias** are due today. Order forms and payment can be placed in the offering plate.

**The Annual Church Christmas Party** will be held on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Changes and Updates** for the church directory are due by Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>. 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. Holiday items needed included canned fruits and vegetables, mashed potato mix, and baking supplies. 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.

<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
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

**To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names** in the bulletin please email [bethanyjtown@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanyjtown@hotmail.com).

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