

**Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP**

November 27th, 2016 1st Sunday of Advent— Hope

CALL TO WORSHIP*

L: Keep awake! God is gathering a new community:

P: where all societies become one culture of peace.

L: Stay alert! God is calling us to new ways of living:

P: where the forces of every nation carry mops and brooms to clean up disasters, nails and hammers to build new homes.

L: Be ready! God is teaching us a new way to communicate:

P: where every tongue speaks the language of love.

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - HOPE

(Karen Soliday and Diana Weaver)

**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 in nigh.**

(Sung to the tune of Away In A Manger)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION*

Because God's Day awaits us, more is expected of us. Yet, we turn away from God's gracious calling, we doze off in our discipleship, we continue to walk in sin's shadows. Let us confess how we are not ready for the Advent of God, yet long for God to come into our lives.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

How absurd the prophet sounds, God of holy seasons: cannon shells being turned into light fixtures, drones becoming kites for children, military spending used to pay for scholarships for those who attend Peace's university. How naïve can anyone be! But in your time, God of every moment, lives can be transformed, justice can become impartial, love and hope can outlast despair and hate, our hearts can become doorways through which Christ can enter. We know this because Jesus has come to show us the path of faith, illuminated by your grace.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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**

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5 p.587

Second Lesson Romans 13:11-14 p.987

Gospel Lesson Matthew 24:36-44 p.859

MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CRE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostle's 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

(All who believe are welcome to join in the celebration of Holy Communion)

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of Advent be with you! And also with you!

Now is the time to offer our hearts to God.

We lift them to the One who fills them with grace.

Here at the Table, God is closer to us than ever before.

We would sing glad praise to the One who is our peace.

You saw beyond seeing, God of wonder and joy,in every

time and place, were glad to go to your sanctuary, we sing your praises:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God who draws near.

All creation prays for your peace.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes when we least expect.

Hosanna in the highest!

You come to us in this season, God of holiness and hope,.....

prepare to celebrate the Birth, we are in the presence of Mystery:

Christ came, becoming flesh for us;

Christ died, becoming death for us;

Christ rose, bearing new life for us;

Christ will come to bring us into eternity.

We stand at the gates of your heart.....

THE LORD's PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***BENEDICTION and CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 2-4 #123

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

*****© Rev. Thom Shuman***

"A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986.

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Karen Soliday

Offering: 11/20
Attendance: 25

Sunday November 27th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Local | 808.60 |
| Benev. | 56.00 |
| Improv. | <u>47.40</u> |
| Total | 912.00 |

Sunday December 4th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
New Member Sunday/Coffee Hour

The 33rd Annual Festival of the Nativity will be held December 2-4 at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Johnstown. For more information, see the flyer on the back bulletin board.

We welcome our new members during worship next Sunday. Following the service, a coffee hour will be held.

The Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday December 18th at 5 p.m. All attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share, with the church providing the meats. Please sign up on the back bulletin board if you plan on attending.

Orders for Poinsettias are now being taken. The cost is \$7 each and orders are due by December 11th. To place an order, fill out the form and place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or give it to Ray Sheets or Tami Shroyer.

The December West End Hymn Sing will be held at 7pm on Sunday, December 11th at St. Paul's Lutheran. As we did for the September 11th Hymn Sing- we will have a community Chorus. At this time practices will be held today and Sunday December 4th at 2:30 p.m. Practices will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran. Please let Pastor Denise know if you plan to participate in the Community Chorus.

| Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers... | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Don & Marlene Bennett | Bill & Patty Gramling |
| Michael Robert Rose III | Bill Kegg |
| Darlene Rager | Jack Weiss |
| Phyllis Pfuhl | Justin Korenoski |
| Harry & Lillian Thiel | Kathy & Robert Wilks |
| Lois Henry | Marlene Rager |
| Melinda Mendoza | Logan Weaver |
| Jim Runkle Sr. | Karen Fox |
| Katherine Minahan | Larry Holbay |
| The Fockler Family | George Hockenberry |
| Jack Forsha | Lilyana Newfield |
| Dan Kresko | Sharon Weaver |
| Olivia & Patrick Bragdon | Hannah Clemenson |
| Dick Dunkle | Melissa Zeisman |
| Lenore Runkle | Elizabeth Kern |
| Anne Fattman | Wanda Keifer |
| Buzz Lehman | All Shut- Ins |
| Andy Serafin | All Service Men & Women |
| William Ribblett | |

To Place Announcements Or Concerns List

Names in the bulletin contact Ed Sheets at 539-3495 or email at esheets91@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.