

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA  
Morning Worship  
March 27th, 2022 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP – I am the Vine**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

**P: We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.**

L: Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

**P: No longer do we label our sisters and brothers, we welcome them with open arms.**

L: Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,

**P: and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!**

**HYMN "How Firm a Foundation" #275**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: We know our faults -- the way we have treated others, our alienation from God, our unwillingness to be faithful people. We will not hide our sin or remain silent, but confess them to the One who surrounds us with steadfast love. Please join me as we pray, saying,

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

**On this very day, Waiting God, we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you. You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder, yet we would hide in places where temptation waits. You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse, because you also welcome those we call 'outsiders.' We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make, but hope you will ignore our foolish choices.**

**Celebrating God, before we come to our senses, we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms, tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession, a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we find no limitations**

**on your grace, no reservations about your love, but a feast that overflows with wonder, a place we can finally call home.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

**ALL: Broken, we are made whole; lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness.**

**We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy.**

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**

**Old Testament Lesson Joshua 5:9-12 p.189**

**New Testament Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 p.1006**

**Gospel Lesson Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 p.908**

**MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CP**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed**

**HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #92**

**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** "Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine" #345

**BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\***

L: God sends us forth,

**P: to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed.**

L: Jesus, our Brother, sends us to welcome everyone.

**P: We will embrace the prodigals with joy, we will make a feast for all of God's people.**

L: The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing.

**P: We will go to bring hope to all we meet.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"Let There Be Peace"

\*\* *Rev. Thom Shuman* ©

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Toderro**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner**

**I Am the Vine**

*(Fourth Sunday in Lent)*

The vine draws food from the earth to provide the branches with nourishment. When the branch is severed from the vine, it withers and dies. Likewise, it is through the branches that the vine bears fruit. The mutual indwelling of the vine and the branches results in fruitfulness.

When Jesus referred to himself as the vine and to us as the branches, he was alluding to the life giving force that he brings into our lives. Apart from him, we become wracked with personal problems; our ministry becomes little more than a hectic round of committee meetings and activities; and we experience very little spiritual growth. As a part of the vine, we become fruitful. Our witness to the Lord Jesus Christ becomes productive, and our ministry brings glory to the living God.

The vine cannot bear fruit without the branches. When we do not witness and others do not experience the love of God through us, the vine is barren. With Christ as the center of our lives, persons experience the nature of God through our lives. They see Christ mirrored in us, and we bear fruit for the vine.

I am  
the vine

John 15.5



**Offering: 03/20**  
**Attendance: 14**  
**Local 699.00**  
**Benev. 48.00**  
**Improv. 41.00**  
**Total 1065.00**

**Sunday March 27th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday April 4th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



**Orders** for Easter Flowers are now being accepted. Please use the form in your bulletin to place your order. We ask that most of the orders be submitted today (March 27<sup>th</sup>) with a hard deadline of April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church.

**Pine Springs Camp** will hold their Women in the Woods Retreat April 1-2. Information pamphlets are available on the back table. The deadline for registrations is March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships** for 2022 are available for most Sundays. If you are interested, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

**Donations** for the West End Food Pantry can be placed in the bins by the Blaine St. entrance. All non-perishable food items are appreciated, especially as we approach the holiday season.

<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
Pastor Denise	Ruby Porch
Don Bennett	Christine Paratore
Phyllis Pfuhl	David Hayduk
Harry Thiel	Martha Minahan
Lois Henry	Susie Keefer
Dawna Sheets	Chloe Kern
Al & Linda Hockenberry	Jim Kuntz
Buzz & Jeanne Lehman	David Demo
Bob & Marie Whorl	Linda Hayes
Bev Holbay	Don Merritts
Wendy Manges	All Shut- Ins
Mark Todero	All in Nursing Homes
Diane Brewer	All First Responders
The Todero Family	All Service Men & Women
Shirley Gavazoni	All Healthcare Professionals

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

## Easter Flowers Order Form

Orders for Easter flowers are now being accepted. Please use this form to place your order. We ask that most of the orders be submitted by next Sunday (March 27th) with a hard deadline of April 3rd. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church.

# of Tulips @ \$9.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
6" Pot (5-6 Blooms)

# of Hyacinths @ \$9.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
6" Pot (3 Blooms)

# of Lilies @ \$11.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
6" Pot (1 Stem-3 Bloom)

NAME:

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY: