

I am

the vine

John 15.5



Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
Morning Worship
March 31st, 2019 4th 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" #361**

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**

#576

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**

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-32p.908 MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero, CP

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

***HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #376**

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" #341**

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"

**Those who are able please stand.*

*** Rev. Thom Shuman ©*

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

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.

Offering: 3/31
Attendance: 28
Local 1180.10
Benev. 81.70
Improv. 69.20
Total 1331.00

Sunday April 7th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday April 14th
Morning Worship 10:30 p.m.
Palm Sunday

Orders for Easter flowers are now being accepted. Please use the form in your bulletin today if you would like to order. The deadline for orders is today. See Karen Soliday with any questions.

Easter Breakfast will be held on Sunday April 21st at 9 a.m. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the back bulletin board, so we know how many to prepare for.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held on Thursday April 18th at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. All are invited to attend.

We are revising our Bethany Prayer Chain. Please check the list in the back and indicate whether you would like to remain on the list. Please add your name if you would like to join the list and indicate if you want updates via text message or phone call.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships are available for 2019. If you would like to sign up for one or both for a week, sign up on the back bulletin board or by clicking the link on the church website (www.bethanyjohnstown.com).

The Raise the Roof Spaghetti Dinner and basket/prize raffle will be held on Saturday April 27th from 4-7 p.m. See the insert in your bulletin for more information.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Don Bennett	Sharon Weaver
Michael Robert Rose III	Elizabeth Kern
Darlene Rager	John Griffin
Phyllis Pfuhl	Rachael Wilks
Harry & Lillian Thiel	Logan Weaver
Lois Henry	Gary Bellack
Katherine Minahan	Cathy Zakucia
Lenore Runkle	Richard Kibsey
Andy Serafin	Kimber Leigh Orlidge
Cheryl Gindlesperger	Justin Korenoski
Nancy Dimitt	Beth Runkle
Joyce Horn	Marie Hudson
Elaine & Ken Bilger	Linda Thomas
Bill & Patty Gramling	Bob Whorl
Marie Kotar	Linda Shoop
Bill Kegg	Linda Donahey
Gloria Sorensen	Martha Noftzger
Kathy & Robert Wilks	Joel Bunn
Rev. Dr. Brenda & Don Barnes	Linda Hayes
Pastor John Hickman	All Shut- Ins
Jim Rozich	All in Nursing Homes
Hannah Korenoski	All First Responders
The Holbay Family	All Service Men & Women

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.

West End Clergy Association 2019 Lenten Lunches
Noon - 1:00pm – Wednesdays during Lent
Theme: Journeys of Holy Week

****A free will donation will be accepted to offset the cost of lunch.****

April 10th

Location: Cambria City Mission
906 Broad Street, Johnstown, PA 15906
Pastor Randy Knupp

Community Good Friday Service
Noon – 3:00pm Friday, April 19th, 2019
Garfield Street United Methodist
180 Garfield St., Johnstown, PA 15906
Theme: The Judgement Seats