

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
November 29, 2020 1st Sunday of Advent - HOPE

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Now, in this season of waiting,

P: may we welcome the God who comes to restore our lives.

L: Now, in this season of watching,

P: may we see Jesus at work in the world, and rush to help him.

L: Now, in this season of hoping,

P: may we share the Spirit of wonder and joy with everyone we meet.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – HOPE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” verse #1

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: Advent is the season of waiting and watching, of preparing and praying, of hoping and hearing. Let us come to God, speaking of how easily we become distracted from these simple acts of Advent discipleship, as we pray together, saying,

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: God is drawing near to us: we live in a world of violence, which we tolerate by our silence:

P: Come to us, with your peace.

L: We are filled with the best of intentions, but seem unable to follow through with action:

P: Come to us, with your will.

L: We are sinners, who are afraid to gaze into your mirror of grace:

P: Come to us with your mercy.

L: Word of flesh, **P: have mercy;**

L: Friend of the poor, **P: have mercy;**

L: Bridegroom of the faithful, **P: have mercy.**

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

P: Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory!

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

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES (bulletin insert)

First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Lesson Mark 13:24-37

MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

HYMN "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (bulletin insert)

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**

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: May the approaching God be with you!

P: And also with you!

L: Open your hearts to our God, dear friends.

P: We long to be filled with grace and hope.

L: Sing songs to the Potter of our lives.

P: We rejoice in the One who shapes us with new life.

L: You could no longer wait, Patient God,..... with those who nod off while waiting, we sing our praises to you:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COMMUNION *(Please hold the element until all are served, at the Pastor's lead, all will partake together saying:)*

The body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

BENEDICTION/SENDING **

L: We do not know when Christ will return,

P: so we will wait, and in the waiting we will share hope with everyone around us.

L: We do not know what the coming days will bring,

P: but we will be alert, noticing all those who need the help we can provide.

L: P: We do not know the opportunities we will be given,

P: but we will keep our eyes open, so we can welcome each person as if they are the Christ.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Joy to the World" verse #1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing

****Rev. Thom Shuman ©**

Advent Candle Lighting – Rev. Richard Fairchild

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

JESUS OUR SAVIOR

124 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives. Isa. 61:1

-1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
-2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a Child, and yet a King,

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

EXT: Charles Wesley
USIC: Rowland H. Prichard; arranged by Robert Harkness
A lower setting may be found at No. 89

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D.

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Lessons from the Scriptures

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we ransgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus

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Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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Offering: 11/22
Attendance: 21
Local 336.00
Benev. 23.30
Improv. 19.70
Total 379.00

Sunday November 29th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday in Advent

Sunday December 6th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
New Member/Baptism Sunday

New Member and Baptism Sunday will be held next Sunday (December 6th) during Morning Worship. Coffee Hour will be held following the service. Contact Linda Orlidge if you would like to bring something for the Coffee Hour.

Orders for Christmas Poinsettias are now being accepted. The cost is \$8 each and orders are due by Sunday December 6th. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church.

The Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday December 13th following Morning Worship. All members are encouraged to attend this short meeting.

Thank You to everyone who helped decorate the church last week for the Christmas season.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Don & Marlene Bennett	Maryann Minahan
Phyllis Pfuhl	Tina Varner
Harry & Lillian Thiel	All Shut- Ins
Lois Henry	All in Nursing Homes
Dawna Sheets	All First Responders
Marybeth Zahorchak	All Service Men & Women
Al Hockenberry	All Healthcare Professionals
Waylon Rummell	

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.

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