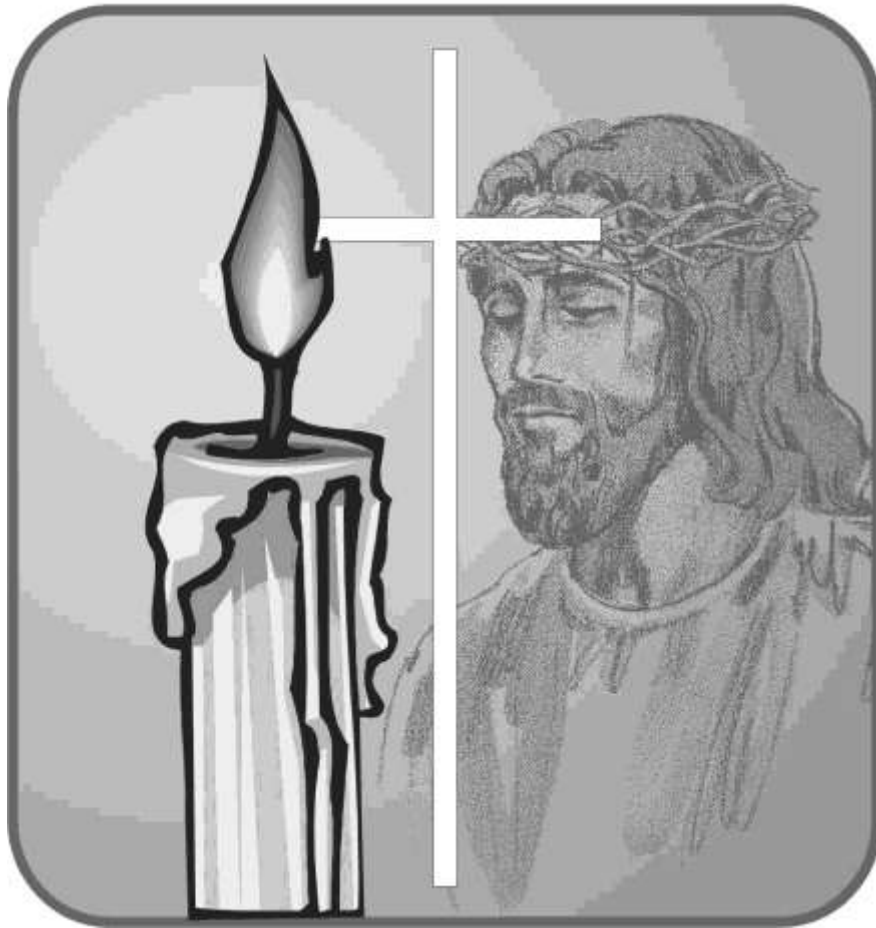


# I am

## the light of the world

John 8.12



Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA  
March 17th, 2019 2nd Sunday in Lent

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP-I Am the Light of the World**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:

**P: to wait in silence for the Word, to sit at the Table of grace.**

L: Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

**P: to bring hope to those who have none, to love all tossed aside by indifference.**

L: The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

**P: so we might discover the gift of peace, and offer it to our broken world.**

**\*CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: Join me in imitating all who have gone before us, who trusted that if they spoke of their misdeeds and hollow hearts, God would not only hear them, but forgive them.

Let us pray together, saying,

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

**ALL: Offered a feast at grace's table, God of the covenant, we choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed. Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance.**

**But you will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, Mothering God, but will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

**"Be Thou My Vision"**

**#339**

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us up, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

**P: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests upon us and gives us hope and mercy.**

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\***

As you have blessed us beyond all expectation and need, we would join in imitating you, by offering gifts which will bring hope, healing, and help to those who struggle in this life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**Old Testament Lesson      Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18      p.11**

**New Testament Lesson      Philippians 3:17-4:1      p.1024**

**Gospel Lesson      Luke 13:31-35      p.907**

**MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CP**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)      p.14**

**\*HYMN      "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"      #403**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and the LORD'Ss 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.**

**\*HYMN      " There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"      #398**

## **\*BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\***

L: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, go with God:

**P: we will take the Word of grace into our world.**

L: Today, tomorrow, and the next days, go with Jesus:

**P: we will shelter those who have nowhere else to go.**

L: Today, tomorrow, and all the days to come, go with the Spirit:

**\*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:**

# **I Am the Light of the World**

*(Second Sunday in Lent)*

When we walk in the darkness, the way is not clear to us. We stumble about, placing ourselves in danger unaware. On the other hand, when we walk in the light our way is clear. We are able to see the pitfalls and avoid them, moving with assurance toward our goal. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He is a sure beacon by which to guide our lives and our interactions with others.

Light brings out the beauty in us. Dinner by candlelight makes each person around the table seem radiant with their natural, inner beauty. But, light makes evident our unloveliness as well. Our imperfections cannot be hidden in the light. Such things as our anger or harshness or jealousy or selfishness are there for all to see.

Often, we Christians view the light as being too ideal, too much for us to accomplish. We stray from the light into the darkness because the light requires too much of us. It has a way of making us uncomfortable at times, and it often clashes with what we prefer to do.

Through the centuries, well-meaning Christians have strayed from the path into the darkness. Wars have been waged in the name of God. Villages have been plundered and destroyed in the name of the church. Some persons have been enslaved. Rights have been denied to others.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He did not come to support tradition. He did not come to justify our misconceptions about God. He did not come to judge us for our shortcomings. He came to bring light into the world. If we keep our eyes steadfastly fastened upon Jesus and his teaching, the way will be clear. He does not promise us the way will be easy; in fact, he warns us that it is just the opposite. But, as rocky and difficult as it may become at times, with Jesus lighting the way, we can and will be builders of the kingdom.

Another aspect of this theme focuses upon light as a form of energy, calling us into accountability as good stewards of our resources. Are we free to be irresponsible with the light provided upon earth? As the world faces the certainty of diminishing energy sources, will we truly see ourselves plunged into darkness because of poor stewardship? What can we as Christians do about this?

**Offering: 3/3**  
**Attendance: 22**  
**Local 1249.25**  
**Benev. 86.50**  
**Improv. 73.25**  
**Total 1409.00**

**Sunday March 17th**  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday March 24th**  
Morning Worship 10:30 p.m.  
**Coffee Hour After Worship**

**Items For The Newsletter** are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please give or send all items to Ed Sheets.

**Orders** for Easter flowers are now being accepted. Please use the form in your bulletin if you would like to order. The deadline for orders is March 31<sup>st</sup>. See Karen Soliday with any questions.

**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.

**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](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)).

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

**Please Refrain** from using cell phones and other electronic devices during Morning Worship. We thank you for your cooperation.



<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
Don Bennett	Sharon Weaver
Michael Robert Rose III	Elizabeth Kern
Darlene Rager	John & Cindy Griffin
Phyllis Pfuhl	Rachael Wilks
Harry & Lillian Thiel	Logan Weaver
Lois Henry	Gary Bellack
Katherine Minahan	Cathy Zakucia
Lenore Runkle	Richard Kibsey
Andy Serafin	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Cheryl Gindlesperger	Kimber Leigh Orlidge
Nancy Dimitt	Justin Korenoski
Joyce Horn	Beth Runkle
Elaine & Ken Bilger	Marie Hudson
Bill & Patty Gramling	Linda Thomas
Marie Kotar	Bob Whorl
Bill Kegg	Linda Shoop
Gloria Sorensen	Linda Donahey
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](mailto:esheets91@hotmail.com) or contact Pastor Denise at 479-2382 or email her at [datodero@atlanticbb.net](mailto: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.

Raise The Roof Spaghetti Dinner  
Saturday April 27, 2019  
Bethany Presbyterian Church

**Tickets:** Tickets for the dinner are \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under. If you would like to purchase tickets or would like to take some to sell, contact Pastor Denise.

**Donations:** Donations for the dinner or the basket/prize raffle are appreciated. If you would like to make a donation for the basket/prize raffle, or if you know a business that would donate a prize or basket, contact Ed Sheets. Donation letters are also available on the back table. We ask that if possible, all donations be brought to the church by April 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact Ray Sheets about donations for the dinner.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs during the dinner and to make cakes for the dessert table. Please contact Ray Sheets or Ed Sheets if you can volunteer for either.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT  
FUNDRAISER!!!!!!

## Easter Flower Order Sheet

Orders are now being accepted for Easter Flowers. Orders and money can be given to Karen Soliday, placed in the offering plate, or mailed back to the church. The deadline for orders is March 31<sup>st</sup>

NAME:

Easter Lily \_\_\_\_\_ (Qty.) @ \$9 each

Tulips (6" Pot) \_\_\_\_\_ (Qty.) @ \$7 Each

Hyacinth (6" Pot) \_\_\_\_\_ (Qty.) @ \$7 Each

Chrysanthemum (6" Pot) \_\_\_\_\_ (Qty.) @ \$7 Each

TOTAL: \$\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Given By: