

Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP November 12th, 2023
24th Sunday after Pentecost

CALL TO WORSHIP

(A Litany from *The Book of Worship for United States Forces*)

L: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

P: We give you thanks, o God.

L: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

P: We give you thanks, o God.

L: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

P: We give you thanks, o God.

L: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

P: We give you thanks, o God.

L: O almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.

HYMN "Eternal Father Strong to Save" vs 1&4 #575

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: If we confess our sins, our God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ALL: Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON **

L: This is our assurance: God forgives us.

This is our hope: God's love is everlasting.

This is our truth: God is with us always.

**P: We will speak the truth;
we will live the hope;
we will share God's mercy.**

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 by saying, "The Peace of Christ be With You.")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

#625

Prayer of Dedication**

We can stand at the edge and watch while you seek to bring hope, healing, peace, and joy to everyone in the world. Or we can take that step, of committing our lives as well as our gifts, in working with you in this ministry of grace. Bless our gifts, bless our lives, bless our service, we pray. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson	Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25	p.206
Second Lesson	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	p.1030
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 25:1-13	p.860

MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

HYMN "Abide With Me" vs 1,3&4 #419

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.**

PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE AND INTERCESSION

(Refer to Bulletin Insert)

HYMN "God Be With You" #602

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Go now to tell the stories of our God.

P: We will listen to the lives of those around us as we do.

L: Go now to discover the gifts of everyone you meet.

P: We will remember Jesus, who blessed us with hope and life.

L: Go now to share all that is within you.

P: We will tell everyone - from the smallest child to the oldest person - of the Spirit who longs to shape us into one community.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace"

****© Rev Thom Shuman**

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Lily Vozsnyak

A holy Christian life is made up of a number of small things:

Little words, not eloquent sermons;

Little deeds, not miracles of battle,

Or one great, heroic deed of martyrdom;

The little constant sunbeam, not the lightning.

The avoidance of little evils, Little inconsistencies, little weaknesses,
Little follies and indiscretions, And little indulgences of the flesh made
up The beauty of a holy life.

-- Andrew Bonar, a 19th century Scottish clergyman



PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE AND INTERCESSION

L: Father, we remember the deeds of courage and the sacrifices that were made on our behalf by the men and women of our nation during the great wars of our century.

P: I remember, O Lord, how different it was for them and I pray that I may prove worthy of their offering.

L: Help us, Lord, be a people who perform our vows and keep our promises. Help us to do justice, to resist evil, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

P: Lord, hear our prayer

L: Compassionate and most merciful God, move us so that we do not pass by the suffering and the helpless on the roads of life.

P: Open my eyes to recognize those who need my help. Cultivate in me a desire to be a friend, to share words of kindness, to do good deeds every day.

L: Gracious God, we pray that there may be peace in this world - the abiding peace that comes from an equal sharing of what this earth affords.

P: I pray for the peace that comes from caring for others, for the peace that comes when I place you first in my life, for the peace that comes from tolerance and from trust.

L: Guide us, Lord, in the ways of this peace. Lead the leaders of all nations that they may place love and truth and faithful service first in their lives,

P: Open my heart and the hearts of men and women everywhere to the needs of others. Make us instruments of your grace.

L: Loving God, hear these prayers, and all the other intentions of our hearts, minds, and souls, this day.... We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray together as one family, saying. **Our Father....**