

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
December 11th, 2022 3rd Sunday of Advent

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Be patient! The time is coming when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus,

P: when we will sing and rejoice, dancing with everlasting joy.

L: But for now, be patient, as we wait in this time called Advent,

**P: when God speaks through dreams and visions,
and we are invited to dance down the holy way into the kingdom.**

L: For this is Advent, as we prepare to join the world
in celebrating the Creator of goodness and hope,

**P: when those who limp will teach new dance steps,
when the voiceless sing will sing.**

INTROIT

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1, 2 & 3 #123

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING –JOY

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: There is no need to wait in long lines. God is always willing to listen – to our hearts as well as our voices, as we admit how we have not cared as we could, have not shared as we should. Let us join, as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

ALL: This season is supposed to be so holy, God of Christmas, yet the din of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps. As we drive down the streets, the decorations on all the houses keep us from seeing the loneliness of the widower, the strained faces of those who fear the future. We are so determined to find just the right gift or card which speaks of joy, we forget that you came so long ago to offer justice to those who have none.

Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless, to walk with those who have lost their way, to let go of our certainty of what really happened to long ago, and listen to the songs of children which speak of that peace which really can bring reconciliation, of that grace which really can offer hope, of that love which really can to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Do not be afraid, but believe. Our God is here, opening our eyes to see that salvation which is ours approaching us in this season of Advent.

**P: We join our voices in rejoicing in God who is our Savior.
The One who calls us blessed, is the God who forgives us**

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

Prayer of Dedication

#625

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson	Isaiah 35:1-10	p.615
Second Lesson	James 5:7-10	p.1056
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 11:2-11	p.844

MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

HYMN

"A Thousand Candles"

#159

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 LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High"

#132

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Let us journey into the world with our God,

P: to rebuild shattered hearts with hope.

L: Let us spend each day with Jesus,

P: mending brokenness with love.

L: Let us share our hearts with the Spirit,

P: so we may be with those who are waiting for peace.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verse 4

#123

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Offering: 12/4
Local 948.00
Benev. 65.40
Improv. 55.60
Roof 10.00
Total 1079.00

Sunday December 11th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Church Christmas Party

Sunday December 18th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Orders are Now Being Accepted for Christmas Poinsettias. The cost is \$10 each and orders are due today. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or given to Ray Sheets.

We Have Once Again Adopted A Family to help during the Christmas season. Items the family needs have been placed on tags in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to assist, simply take the tag(s) you wish to help with, purchase the items on the tag(s), and bring the wrapped gifts back (with the tag(s) attached) to the church by December 18th. Please contact Ray Sheets with any questions.

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.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Pastor Denise	Ruby Porch
Lois Henry	Christine Paratore
Dawna Sheets	David Hayduk
Buzz & Jeanne Lehman	Susie Keefer
Bob & Marie Whorl	Chloe Kern
Bev Holbay	Tyler & Julie Kalp
Wendy Manges	Linda Hayes
Mark Todero	David Varner
Diane Brewer	Loretta Davidson
The Todero Family	All Shut- Ins
Shirley Gavazoni	All in Nursing Homes
Linda & Richard Oaks	All First Responders
Dick Brewer	All Service Men & Women
Sean Rovon	All Healthcare Professionals
Carl & Linda Thomas	

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) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for the latest news, information and much more!