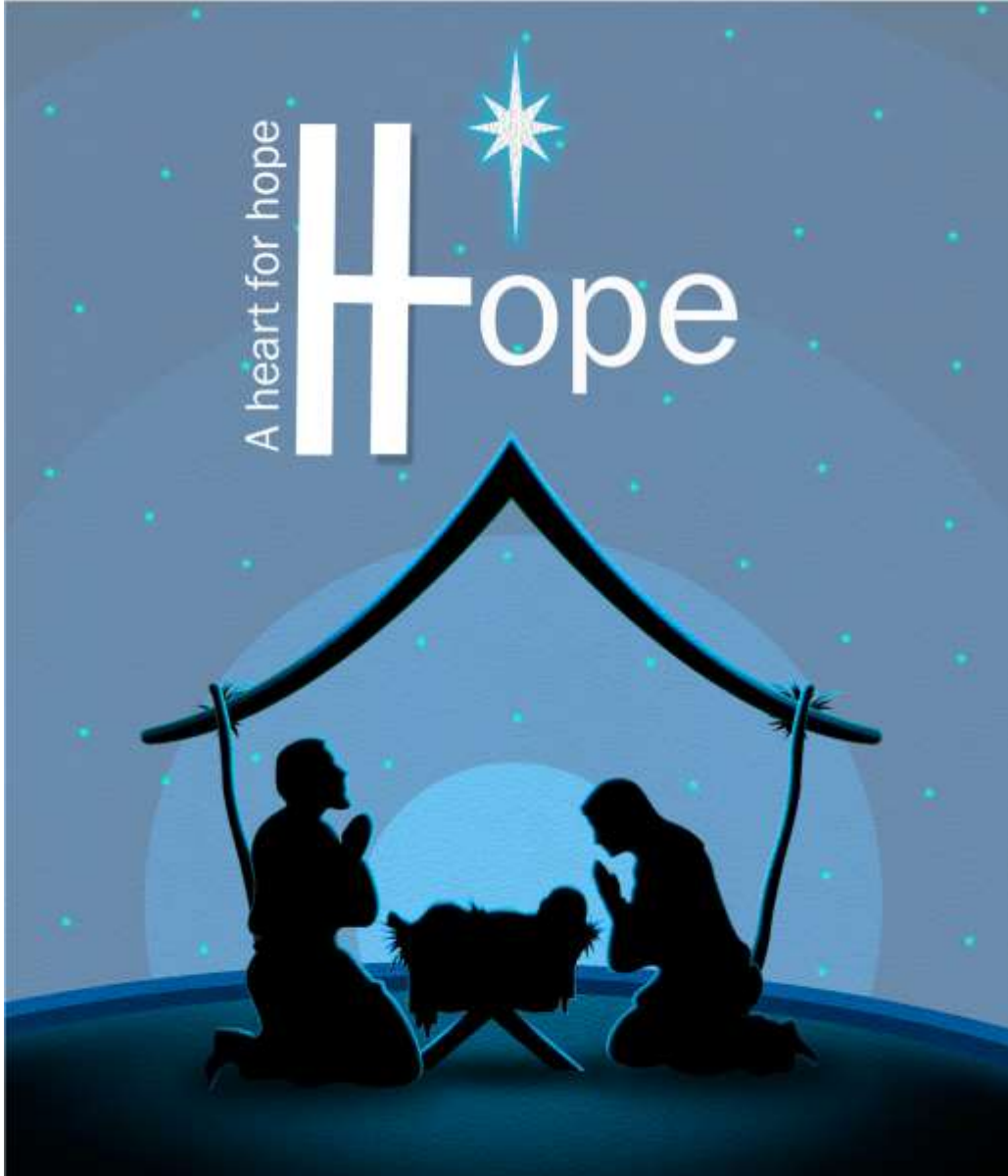


A heart for hope

Hope



Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
December 1st, 2019 1st Sunday of Advent– Hope

CALL TO WORSHIP*

L: We may not know when,

**P: but you are coming to us, grace overflowing from your heart,
O God.**

L: We may not know who,

**P: but your hope will be shared by the least likely people, Friend
of the poor.**

L: We may not know how,

**P: but your peace will transform our angry words into warm
welcomes, our bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Joy.**

INTROIT "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verse #1 #123

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - HOPE
(Betty Clemenson and Tina Varner)

**A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus in nigh.**

(Sung to the tune of Away In A Manger)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION*

**We may not know the time, but our every moment is held in God's hands. We
may not do and say what we should or could, but God offers us words of
forgiveness. Join me as we pray together, saying,**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Sometimes it is hard for us to take you seriously, God of our lives. With terrorism stalking us, how can we think of turning bombers into shelters for the homeless?

With bullies using the airwaves to threaten those around us, how could we not respond with anger and vindictive slights? With our hopes turned to ashes, how can we become beacons of light for those in the shadows?

Forgive us, God of holy seasons, and have mercy. In the days to come, may we discover the grace which has always been ours, so we can share it with others. May we taste the sweet goodness of your love, and feed those around us. May

we be filled with the peace of your Spirit, so we may expect you to come in those we least expect, in places which surprise us, in moments we overlook, just as you did in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: Reach out and touch the kingdom, for it is right next to you. Breathe in, and feel the Spirit of peace and hope. Trust and believe this good news: God is nearer than you might ever imagine.

P: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! We can set aside our differences and embrace everyone, we can seek peace for all in our lives, our neighborhoods, our world.

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**

#625

Prayer of Dedication*

Our gifts seem so insignificant considering the need, so paltry when we look at the brokenness around us. But in the days to come, you promise to take them so that others might be fed, clothed, housed, and embraced in your grace and hope. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

p.587

Second Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

p.987

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 24:36-44

p.859

MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

HYMN

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #124

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

(All who believe are welcome to join in the celebration of Holy Communion)

(Please see bulletin insert)

BENEDICTION/SENDING*

L: We may not know when, but we will go,

P: to bring God's grace to our broken world.

L: We may not know who, yet we will go,

P: to receive Jesus' hope from those we are uncomfortable being around.

L: We may not know how, so we will go,

P: to share the Spirit's peace in the most unusual places.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 2-4

#123

**Those who are able please stand.*

***© Rev. Thom Shuman*

"A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986.

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the Approaching God be with you. **And also with you.**

In the days to come, People of God, offer your hearts to the One who comes near.

We will lay aside all that keeps us from opening ourselves to God.

Now is the time to sing praises to the One who loves us.

We offer our thanksgiving to God, as we find ourselves standing within the gates of Advent.

You spoke of the days to come.....

With those who worry about your return, with those who have forgotten to tell time, we sing of your praises:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of the welcoming heart.

All creation sings of your great love.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes when we least expect.

Hosanna in the highest!

In the days to come.....we would proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ died, seeking the good for all;

Christ was raised, putting on resurrection's love;

Christ will come, precisely when we least expect him.

Now, pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and the cup..... **THE**

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE COMMUNION

(Please hold the elements until all have been served.)

After everyone has received the bread, all will say together:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

After everyone has received the cup, all will say together:

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Offering: 11/24
Attendance: 24
Local 865.20
Benev. 60.60
Improv. 61.20
Total 987.00

Sunday December 1st
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
1st Sunday In Advent

Sunday December 8th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

The Flowers & Bulletins are given by Don & Marlene Bennett.

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to Jimmy Stormant on the passing of his mother.

The Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday December 15th, immediately following Morning Worship. Both the service and the party will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish and to sign up on the back bulletin board, so we know how many to prepare for.

Today is the last day for donations to be collected for the VA Home. Donated items can be placed in the back of the sanctuary. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or given to Ray Sheets. Thank you for your support of this project.

Items For The Newsletter are due by December 29th. This edition will cover January-March 2020. Give all submissions to Ed Sheets.

2020 Lay Leader sign ups are now being accepted. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the back bulletin board. Take a month for yourself or share with someone else. See Pastor Denise for more information.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships are now available for 2020. The cost of flowers is tentatively set for \$24 per week and the cost to sponsor the bulletin for a week is \$10 (\$6 if sponsoring the flowers in the same week. If you are interested, please sign up on the back bulletin board.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...

Don Bennett	The Holbay Family
Michael Robert Rose III	Elizabeth Kern
Phyllis Pfuhl	Rachael Wilks
Harry & Lillian Thiel	Logan Weaver
Lois Henry	Richard Kibsey
Andy Serafin	Gwen Hartnett
Elaine Bilger	Beth Runkle
Kathy & Robert Wilks	Marie Hudson
Rev. Dr. Brenda & Don Barnes	Linda Hayes
Pastor John Hickman	Leslie Clemenson
John Manges	All Shut- Ins
Denny Hammers	All in Nursing Homes
Rodney Varner	All First Responders
Dawna Sheets	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.

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

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Orders are now being accepted for poinsettias. The cost is \$8 each and orders are due by December 8th. Orders can be given to Ray Sheets, placed in the offering plate, or mailed back to the church.

NAME:

of Poinsettias _____ x \$8 each = _____

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

OTHER:

GIVEN BY:

_____ Pick Up on December 22nd

_____ Pick Up on Christmas Eve

_____ Pick Up on December 29th