

LIVE AS PEOPLE WHO ARE *free*...

LIVING AS *servants*

*of God.*

1 PETER 2:16 (ESV)



**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**September 12th, 2021 Proper 19**  
**Commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11**

**WELCOME:** Psalm 46:1-3, 7

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Lord of hosts, be with us still. Therefore, we shall not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be hurled into the sea; though its waters rage and foam, though the mountains tremble at its tumult. Lord of hosts, be with us still.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: On September 11, 2001, our lives were changed. Loss came into our world in a shocking and tragic way - loss of innocence as a nation, loss of security in our communities, loss of lives and livelihood for so many individuals.

**P: We shall never be the same after that black day. And yet we have survived. We are marked and scarred and still find need for healing, but we have survived to see September 11th, 2021.**

L: For this, we can give thanks to the God who provides all good things for our being as individuals and as a nation. Therefore let us mark this day with prayers of remembrance, prayers of healing, prayers of thanksgiving, and prayers for guidance as we go forward in our lives together.

**"The Star-Spangled Banner"**

**Landon Heptner**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE \*\***

L: Lord of the nations, God of our strength, the images of the tragedy of September 11th are still so vivid in our minds and in our senses. What we saw, how we felt, and what we said is still so very present for us. Yet with a gentle and caring hand, you have lifted us from the depths of despair and guided us to this time of remembrance twenty years later.

**P: With truly grateful hearts, we thank you, O Lord.**

L: You have given us strength beyond our expectation to meet the challenges of living in our post-9/11 world.

**P: With truly grateful hearts, we thank you, O Lord.**

L: You have touched us with your healing power and dulled the pain that may never go away by giving us hope again, when at first we felt so hopeless.

**P: With truly grateful hearts, we thank you, O Lord.**

L: As we look back, we remember the lives of those who died so tragically. We remember the heroism of firefighters, police, nurses, doctors, clergy and so many ordinary citizens who gave of themselves for others-- and continued to do so throughout the year.

**P: We remember with thanksgiving, O Lord.**

L: We remember those who stepped forward so swiftly to fight the good fight on our behalf against the evils of terror, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

**P: We remember with thanksgiving, O Lord.**

L: We remember the courageous leadership of the heads of our government, standing with us in our sorrow and lending aid, guidance and decisive action to help us move forward.

**P: We remember with thanksgiving, O Lord.**

L: As we look forward, O God, we realize the stark reality that terror still affects our daily lives. Help us in our fearfulness to place our hope and our trust in you.

**P: Lord, hear our prayer.**

L: Guide and inspire us and our leaders to make wise decisions for our future, for our homeland, and for our people. Keep us from self-righteousness, arrogant pride and prejudice. Unite us to champion justice, peace and freedom.

**P: Lord, hear our prayer.**

L: You alone know what hurts remain among us. Send us your healing Spirit. Comfort those who mourn. Bring us all to the fullness of health and joy that comes from your love.

**P: Lord, hear our prayer.**

L: God of all creation, Author of all good, faithful Provider of all our needs, to you we give our praises, our prayers and our thanksgivings on this day of remembrance. All honor and glory be yours, O God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN "America, the Beautiful" (1<sup>st</sup> verse) #572**

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

**ALL: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against each other in our pursuits of power, control, and security. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Matthew 11:28-30

L: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

**P: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;**

L: for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**P: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

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 with a virtual hug or handshake or wave saying "The peace of Christ be with you")*

**REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE**

**Offertory**

**Doxology #625**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Scripture Isaiah 43:1b-3a and I Peter 5:6-7**

L: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

**P: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.**

**Hymn "How Great Thou Art" (1<sup>st</sup> verse) #4**

**Scripture: Romans 8:35-39**

L: Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

**P: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Hymn                      "Great is Thy Faithfulness"                      (1<sup>st</sup> verse)                      #43

**Scripture: Psalm 23 (KJV) Unison**

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**

**He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:**

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me;**

**thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:**

**thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:**

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

"God Bless America"                      Landon Heptner

MEDITATION                      Denise Ann Todero, CP

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed**

**HYMN                      "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" (verses 1 and 4)                      #571**

**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 THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE                      "Let There Be Peace" (Inside back cover of the Hymnal)**

\*\*The Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner**

*God Bless America, Land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her  
Thru the night with a light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans, white with foam God bless America, My home sweet home.*

**Offering: 9/5**  
**Attendance:**  
**Local      873.30**  
**Benev.     60.50**  
**Improv. 51.20**  
**Total     985.00**

**Sunday September 12th**  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday September 19th**  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Session** will meet on Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> after Morning  
Worship.

**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 during the summer months.

**Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships** are available for all Sundays in 2021. The cost to sponsor flowers for a week is \$25 and the cost to sponsor the bulletin for a week is \$10. If you sponsor both the flowers and bulletin for a week the cost is \$30. Sign up on the back bulletin board at the church or by clicking the link on the church website.



<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
Pastor Denise	Chloe Kern
Don Bennett	Ruby Porch
Phyllis Pfuhl	Christine Paratore
Harry Thiel	David Hayduk
Lois Henry	Mary Findley
Ray & Dawna Sheets	Mercedes Rummel
Al Hockenberry	Susie Keefer
Waylon Rummell	Shari Pavic
Bob & Marie Whorl	All Shut- Ins
Bev Holbay	All in Nursing Homes
Nora Dixon	All First Responders
Mark Todero	All Service Men & Women
Bob & Kathy Wilks	All Healthcare Professionals

**To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names** in the bulletin contact Ed Sheets at 539-3495 or email at [bethanyjtown@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanyjtown@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.

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