

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 2, 2018

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

Marcel Dupré

WELCOME

GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION

INTROIT

“A Tender Shoot”

Otto Goldschmidt

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Pastor: The Wise Men and shepherds saw signs that foretold Jesus' coming over 2000 years ago. Today we don't look for a single brilliant star to follow or for angels singing in the heavens. We look for other signs that Jesus is with us, signs that:

..... we are feeding the hungry, healing the sick,

..... clothing the naked, caring for the poor,

..... working for justice and righteousness at home and in our world.

People: And so we watch, and wait, and stay alert, waiting again for the coming of Jesus. And we light a single candle in preparation for that glorious day.

***HYMN #82**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected , Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you. And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and only treat others the way you wish to be treated. Do not initiate divisions, but rather let us bring peace to our hearts and to the world.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Creator God, we confess we can be an impatient people used to instant delivery. At times we forget how waiting can give birth to a needed patience and a greater appreciation of our many blessings. Amen.

Leader: Let us in silence confess our own personal sins. (Silence)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends in Christ, hear a word of grace for this day and hour: Through our honest confession, our lives, however incomplete, and our intentions, however lacking, are gently gathered up into God and transformed by God's unyielding love and mercy.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you. **People: And also with you!**

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS [Children may leave for "Roots and Wings" activities in the Large Hall, and return to their pews after the sermon.]

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 25:1-5

page 436 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Thou Shall Know Him When He Comes"

Hal Hopson

Bethany Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING

First Corinthians 1:3-9

page 926 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Bob Spratt

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN #97**

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

ABERYSTWYTH

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Congregational Response: "Lord, we praise you." or "Lord, hear our prayer"

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS

(As the offering is received, please sign, pass, and return the pew pads. Please provide your full name, address, phone number, and check if you are a visitor or a member.)

OFFERTORY

***HYMN #606**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

We are grateful for the opportunity to support many good causes during this Advent season, and especially do we thank you for the opportunity to invest in the proclamation of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to share in this feast. All Baptized Children who have been instructed by their parent(s) in the meaning of the sacrament are also welcomed to the Lord's Table.

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Please eat the bread as you are served as a sign that Christ nourishes and strengthens each one. Please hold the cup that we might drink it together to symbolize the way Christ nourishes and strengthens our unity.

Prayer of Commitment (Unison)

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LITANY OF INSTALLATION

Pastor: There are different gifts,

People: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Pastor: There are different ways of serving God,

People: but it is the same Lord who is served.

Pastor: God works through different people in different ways.

People: But it is the same God who achieves his purpose through them all.

Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ,

People: and individually members of Him.

Presentation of Charlie Dennett, Sue Kretovic and Bev Murray as Committee Members for Commissioning

Presentation of Candidates for Installation

Constitutional Questions to the Candidates

Constitutional Questions to the Congregation

Elder Craig Johnson

Do you, the members of this church, accept elected Elder: Ron Fisher, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

"WE DO."

Do you, the members of this church, accept elected Deacons: Karen Dobbins, and Sandy Ericson, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **"WE DO."**

Do you agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is head of the church? **"WE DO."**

Congregational Prayer (Unison)

Almighty God, in every age, you have chosen servants to speak your word and lead your loyal people. We thank you for these women and men whom you have called to serve you. Give them special gifts to do their special work, and fill them with Holy Spirit so they may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be a faithful disciple as long as they shall live. Amen

***HYMN #93**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

CHILDCARE is available from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM in the Church Nursery located across from the Church Library for newborns through Pre-K.

THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:

Deacons: Mark Klotzbach, Dave Anderson, Sandy Ericson, Sue Kretovic,
Journey Spratt, Beth Thomsen

Lay Liturgist: Polly McCubbin

Greeters: Shirley Georgi, Rick & Lisa Clement

Acolyte: Eric Patanella

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Pam Auld, David Ballerstein, Audrey Cox, Deb Haskins and family for medical issues, Pete Posson, Frank Wood.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Judy Ballerstein and Audrey Cox at the passing of Jack Phillips.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE - As of November 20, we have 144 pledges with \$308,727 pledged. We need your support! If you have not yet filled out your estimate of giving card please do so.

DONUT SOCIAL: Please join us today in the Large Hall immediately after today's service for a donut social. Your favorite jelly, sugar, and topped donuts will all be there for sampling. We hope to see you for some fun, fellowship and great donuts.

MUSIC SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH Come and join us for a special music-filled service featuring both the Bethany Adult Choir and the Celebration Ringers as we experience the power of ministry through music this Advent Season. Spanning 500 years, the musical selections include works by Praetorius, Bairstow, and contemporary composers Paul Manz and Peter Lutkin. New choir members are welcome to participate in this transformative ministry. Please contact Music Director Jacob Montgomery for any questions — jmontgomery.bethany@gmail.com.

ADVENT LUNCHEON: Please join us after the Music Sunday service for a continuation of our Advent celebration by sharing a potluck lunch in the Large Hall. After lunch we will decorate cookies for the home-bound. Please bring a dish to pass. Contact Jennifer McGarrity with any questions. We hope to see you there!

BETHANY MONEY COUNTERS NEEDED: The money counting team needs two new volunteers to help with the task of counting and documenting the offering taken each Sunday. This is done immediately following worship. It takes about an hour and each individual is needed roughly once per month to perform the task. It helps to be organized and good with numbers, but we have a procedure and will train you on how to do it. It is a good way to help the church behind the scenes with a necessary business function. If you are interested please contact Craig Johnson at 720-6195.

ADVENT RETREAT: On Saturday, December 8 from 9 am to 12:00 noon, Third Presbyterian Church Christmas will present a time for stories. They will explore personal stories and how they connect to the story of Jesus' birth. Led by Lynette Sparks and John Wilkinson, all members of Riverside Neighborhood congregations are welcome. In order to help in preparation for food and materials, please RSVP to the Third Presbyterian church office at 271-6513 by December 4.

HOLIDAY HANDBELL CONCERT: On Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m. ROC SALT Center (corner of Ashland and Averill) will host an hour of holiday selections, both sacred and secular. The concert is free of charge; donations will be accepted to support this historic space.

BETHANY STAFF - Pastoral: Dr. Bob Spratt, Head of Staff/Sr. Pastor, drspratt.bethany@gmail.com; **Music Team:** Jacob Montgomery, Music Director, jmontgomery.bethany@gmail.com; Jean Coniber, Bell Choir Director, jconiber233@gmail.com; Jeff Tabor, Choral Support, Tenor; **Office Team:** Eileen Sengillo, Administrative Assistant, sengillo.bethany@gmail.com; Sharon Nichols, Membership and Assistant Secretary, snichols.bethany@gmail.com; Tom Olney, Bookkeeper and Contributions Secretary, tolney.bethany@gmail.com; **Custodian:** Jeff Price, jprice.bethany@gmail.com; **Nursery:** Jennifer Watt.

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	12/2	9 am	Everyday Spirit (Library)
Sunday	12/2	9 am	Serendipity (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/2	10 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Sunday	12/2	10 am	Donut Social (Large Hall)
Sunday	12/2	11:15 am	The Present Word (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/2	11:15 am	Sunday School
Monday	12/3	10 am	Library Volunteers (Library)
Monday	12/3	7 pm	Stephen Ministry (Library)
Tuesday	12/4	10 am	Belles & Beaux (Sanctuary)
Tuesday	12/4	6:30 pm	Life Group #1 (Offsite)
Wednesday	12/5	10 am	Staff meeting (Library)
Wednesday	12/5	6 pm	Liturgy Team (Library)
Wednesday	12/5	7 pm	Worship & Music (Library)
Wednesday	12/5	7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers (Sanctuary)
Thursday	12/6	7:15 pm	Bethany Choir (Music Room)
Saturday	12/8	9 am	Dress a Girl Sewing (Small Hall)
Saturday	12/8	1 pm	Shipmates (Large Hall)
Sunday	12/9	9 am	Everyday Spirit (Library)
Sunday	12/9	9 am	Serendipity (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/9	10 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Sunday	12/9	11:15 am	The Present Word (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/9	11:15 am	Sunday School

Bethany Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

www.bethanyrochester.org

663-3000

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM