

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
December 18th, 2022 4th Sunday of Advent

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Come, Over-flowing joy:

P: **tip-toeing into our lives like the children on the holiest of nights.**

L: Come, Good News of grace:

P: **prepare our hearts to welcome you, and all whose hopes have turned to ashes.**

L: Come, Dreamer of peace:

P: **so we may pour our lives and gifts into a world in need of reconciliation.**

INTROIT

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1, 2, 3 & 4 #123

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING –LOVE

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

How easy we lost our way on the road to Bethlehem! How quick we are to dismiss the dreams and hopes our God has for us in this holy season! Let us come to the One who approaches, ready to swaddle us in forgiveness and grace, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Come now, Reconciler of the nations, for our world, our lives, need your peace more than ever before.

Come, Caller to discipleship, for we long to let go of our self-interest and narcissism.

Come, Word Gifter, for we hunger to hear your voice once again, ever always.

Come, Servant of the poor, so we notice you in all those we push past in this hectic season.

Come, Silence of our nights and Holiness of our hearts, and forgive us for turning your compassion into commercials,

your joy into jingles, your hope into hollow words, your love into lust for the short-lasting offerings of the world. May we find our way to the One born simply, born gracefully, for us – Jesus, the Child of wonder and life

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: We may not notice them there, at the back of the pile of presents, but it is God's hope, God's life, God's mercy, which are the true gifts we receive each and every moment.

P: **We give thanks to our gracious God, who has forgiven us and blessed 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

#625

Prayer of Dedication

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson **Isaiah 7:10-16** **p.591**

Second Lesson **Romans 1:1-7** **p.977**

Gospel Lesson **Matthew 1:18-25** **p.835**

MESSAGE **Denise Ann Todero, CP**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **The Apostles' Creed**

HYMN **"Angels We Have Heard on High"** **#132**

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

HYMN "Go Tell It on the Mountain" #138

BENEDICTION**

L: Come, let us go with God to bring healing to the world.

P: Come, let us bring family to the lonely, comfort to those who grieve.

L: Come, let us go with Jesus to all are forgotten.

P: Come, let us carry justice to the oppressed, to feed those who hunger in body and soul.

L: Come, let us go with the faithful Spirit.

P: Come, let us speak the gospel with our lips, let us share grace with our lives.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Joy to the World!" 1st verse #125

**** © Rev.Thom Shuman**

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner

For though our Saviour's Passion is over, his Compassion is not.

.....William Penn

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We ought not to treat living creatures like shoes or household belongings, which when worn with use we throw away.

.....Plutarch

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Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence and learning.....Frederick W. Faber



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Offering: 12/11
Local 496.50
Benev. 34.40
Improv. 29.10
Total 560.00

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

Saturday December 24th
 Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

Sunday December 25th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Our Annual Christmas Eve Service will be held this Saturday a 7 p.m. here at Bethany. **Christmas Day Morning Worship** will be held next Sunday at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to attend both services.

Today Is The Last Day items collected for the family our congregation adopted for the holidays are being collected. Items can be placed in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who donated gifts.

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 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!