

Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
April 30th, 2023 4th Sunday of Easter

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way, and find our way home.

P: In the lap of a parent, God's compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.

L: The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door into life with him forever.

P: We are baptized with living waters which refresh us, restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.

L: The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth, is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

P: The Breath of life stills our worries and fears, as we are lead to that peaceful place of God's heart.

HYMN "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #68

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: Day by day, God would lead us to the places of hope and healing, while moment by moment, we continue to follow sin down all the wrong paths. Let us confess our lives, as we draw near to the One who would restore us to wholeness. Join me as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

The wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes? We know all too well where they are, Gate of our lives. Stirring up the waters with trouble comes all too easy to us, we confess. And locking the doors of our hearts so we don't have to love others is second nature to us.

Forgive us, our Goodness and Mercy. May our hearts overflow with hope for others, as you anoint us with healing oil. May we share from our abundance with all who hunger for life. May we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to the places of service and life with you forever.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Our Comforter leads us to that place where God's Table is spread with forgiveness and overflowing with grace. Here, we are called to life and love.

P: We will live as God's people: forgiven to serve, blessed to share, loved so we might care.

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**

As we offer our gifts this day, may we join Mercy and Goodness in being in the lives of all who long for rest, who hunger for hope, who thirst for living waters, and who ache to be part of your community of grace and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson	Acts 2:42-47	p.949
Second Lesson	1Peter 2:19-25	p.1059
Gospel Lesson	John 10:1-10	p.933

MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

HYMN

"He Leadeth Me"

#461

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 "Near to the Heart of God" #497

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Day by day, God will lead us:
P: to those pools of peace where we can gather with our friends and strangers.
L: Day by day, Jesus will call us:
P: to give ourselves in service, to anoint others with hope.
L: Day by day, the Spirit shows us:
P: the people we might be, the community we might become.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace"

**** © Rev. Thom Shuman**
ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger
COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero
WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner

Jesus Christ is God's everything for our total need.
Richard Halverson
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*Two men were watching a man drive a herd of sheep
through the main street of a small town.*

*"I thought shepherds led sheep," remarked the first man.
"I didn't know they drive them with a whip."*

*"They do," the other fellow replied.
"That's not a shepherd.
That's the village butcher."
R. Robert Cueni*

