

Hope



Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
December 2nd, 2018 1st Sunday of Advent

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Because of You, Righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem,
P: trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.

L: For You, Child Jesus, we wait,

P: on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry.

L: With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve,

**P: those for whom this season is not one of joy;
those whose lives are empty of family and friends.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - HOPE

(Karen Soliday and Diana Weaver)

Response: *(Sung to the tune of Away In A Manger)*

**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 is nigh.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: If only our hurtful words, our damaging actions, our foolish choices would just go away. But they don't, and so we offer them, as well as ourselves, to God for forgiveness and for our healing. Please join me, as we pray together saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people. Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole;

and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.

P: Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago.

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI**

#579

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**

#592

Prayer of Dedication*

Because of You, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May You use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16 p.683

New Testament Lesson 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 p.1030

Gospel Lesson Luke 21:25-36 p.915

MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

HYMN "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #2

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 *(Please see bulletin insert)*

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

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.

***HYMN "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts" #510**

BENEDICTION*

L: Now may our God prepare us to serve our sisters and brothers.

P: We will devote ourselves to walking with others to Bethlehem.

L: Now may our Lord Jesus Christ steer us into all the places
we do not want to go.

**P: We will throw ourselves into the mission of feeding the hungry,
into the privilege of learning from the poor.**

L: Now may the Holy Spirit move us to increase in love for others.

**P: We will take up the cause of justice in every corner of our lives,
we will help to bring the kingdom of hope near to everyone
around us.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verse #1 #9

**Those who are able please stand.*

*** © Rev. Thom Shuman*

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Karen Soliday

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: May the God of Advent be with you!

P: And also with you!

L: Lift your hearts to God.

P: We lift them to the One who comes with hope.

L: Join in glad songs of thanksgiving.

P: Our voices resound in glad praises to our God.

You spoke the Word and days came tumbling
out,.....

We praise you, for you have not forgotten us,
joining our voices with those of every day and place:

P: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of our days.

All creation is the sign of your wonder.

Hosanna in the highest!.....

As we begin our journey to Bethlehem,
as we celebrate your coming to us in Jesus,
we proclaim that mystery we know as faith:

P: Christ died, for 'the Lord is our righteousness;'

Christ rose, for 'the Lord is our salvation;'

Christ will come, for 'the Lord is our hope.'

Offering: 11/25
Attendance: 25
Local 457.45
Benev. 31.70
Improv. 26.85
Total 516.00

Sunday December 2nd
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday in
Advent/Communion

Sunday December 9th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday in Advent

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

Today is the last day for donations for Tomorrows Hope. Item donations can be placed in the back of the church. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships are available for the remainder of 2018 and are now available for 2019. If you would like to sign up for one or both for a week, sign up on the back bulletin board or by clicking the link on the church website.

The Annual Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday December 16th at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The party will feature food, music, and games. Please bring a covered dish to share, with the church providing the meat. Feel free to come for church and stay for the party. All are welcome. Please sign up on the back bulletin board if you plan on attending.

As we approach the holiday season, the West End Food Pantry is in need of items to stock their shelves. Items they will be looking for include canned fruits and vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, instant mashed potatoes, and other holiday staples. If you would like to donate, items can be placed in the bins by the Blaine St. entrance.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Don Bennett	Larry & Bev Holbay
Michael Robert Rose III	Lilyana Newfield
Darlene Rager	Sharon Weaver
Phyllis Pfuhl	Elizabeth Kern
Harry & Lillian Thiel	John & Cindy Griffin
Lois Henry	Rachael Wilks
Katherine Minahan	Logan Weaver
Olivia & Patrick Bragdon	A Friend
Dick Dunkle	Gary Bellack
Lenore Runkle	Cathy Zakucia
Andy Serafin	Richard Kibsey
Cheryl Gindlesperger	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Joshua Holbay	Kimber Leigh Orlidge
Nancy Dimitt	Justin Korenoski
Joyce Horn	Beth Runkle
Elaine & Ken Bilger	Marie Hudson
Bill & Patty Gramling	Linda Thomas
Marie Kotar	Natalie Neff
Bill Kegg	All Shut- Ins
Gloria Sorensen	All in Nursing Homes
Kathy & Robert Wilks	All First Responders
Rev. Dr. Brenda & Don Barnes	All Service Men & Women
Kay Sabo	

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.