

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

August 23, 2020

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Trio No 1 & No 10”

Josef Rheinberger

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison)

Almighty God, you know that sometimes it's difficult for us to worship. Our lives are so cluttered with appointments, concerns, worries, possessions, work and play that it seems that we have neither the time nor the energy to praise. Help us, we pray, to clear our minds and to cleanse our souls so we can worship you with sincerity, clarity and purpose.

HYMN #475

“Come, Thou Font of Every Blessings”

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

CALL TO CONFESSION - Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

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) - Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

We admit Lord, that we are quick to serve ourselves and slow to serve others. We are eager to receive but reluctant to give. We are slow to admit our own faults and quick to point out the faults of others. Forgive us, we pray, for confusing our priorities, and help us to place our emphases where they belong. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON - Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

Leader: Faith is not doing, but receiving. Be assured that when by faith we receive Jesus Christ, we also receive pardon and peace.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(Baptism is a sacrament, and therefore an attitude of reverence is in order. Please refrain from using cameras or video equipment during the service. A reenactment after the service, specifically for picture taking, may be arranged.)

Congregational Question

Our Lord Jesus Christ ordered us to teach those who are baptized. Do you, the members of this church promise to tell this new disciple, Mason Vincent Ruggiero, the good news of the gospel, to help him know all that Christ commands and by your fellowship, to strengthen his family ties with the household of God?

Congregation: "WE DO."

Congregation Prayer (Unison)

God our Father, we thank you for your faithfulness, promised in this sacrament and for the hope we have in your Son Jesus. As we baptize with water, baptize us with Holy Spirit, so that what we say may be your word and what we do may

be your work. By your power, may we be made one with Christ our Lord in common faith and purpose. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison) - Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear,
and show us what we ought to do,
to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 124 Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

SOLO

“It Is Well With My Soul”
Jeff Tabor, tenor

Mark Hayes

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON

Dr. Bob Spratt

HYMN #488

“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”
"I was there to hear your borne cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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

INVITATION TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH - Lay liturgist – Kim Bolinger

Leader: Let us remember to support Christ's church.

People: We give these offerings for many reasons – because we are concerned about others, because we want our church to be strong and even perhaps because giving makes us feel good. But, most of all, we give in grateful response to the love which you, O God, express to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #451

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.

Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Introduction and Passacaglia”

Josef Rheinberger

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	8/23	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom/Facebook Live)
Sunday	8/23	11am	Virtual Coffee Half Hour – (Zoom)
Sunday	8/23	7 pm	Stephen Ministry (Large Hall)
Monday	8/24	6:30 pm	Vital Congregation Initiative (Large Hall)
Wednesday	8/26	10 am	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday	8/26	4 pm	Organ Task Force meeting - (Large Hall)
Wednesday	8/26	6:30 pm	Spiritual Growth meeting (Large Hall)
Thursday	8/27	7 pm	Bethany Choir - (Zoom)
Thursday	8/27	7pm	Racial Justice Challenge (Zoom)
Sunday	8/30	10 am	Drive-In Worship Service in Bethany parking lot

This morning we celebrate the baptism of Mason Vincent Ruggiero, son of Vinnie and Beth (Clark) Ruggiero. Proud grandparent Dave Clark.

**Bethany's first drive-in worship service in
the Bethany parking lot
August 30, 2020 at 10 AM**



LIFEGROUP #2: will resume meeting on Monday, September 14, in person at Bethany in the large hall at 7:00 to 8:30pm and will be meeting the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Members must follow social distancing and mask wearing protocol.

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: invite all women to a brunch at Sawyer Park on Saturday, September 26th at 10:00 am. Sawyer Park is located at 732 Long Pond Road. Please bring your own chair, food, drink and face mask. Hopefully, we will have a beautiful fall day to enjoy fellowship, laughter and show our resiliency.

The Worship in the Park Service is cancelled for September 13, 2020.

7 MARKS OF A VITAL CONGREGATION



**Mark 1 represents one of the 7 petals of the Vital Congregations Initiative Flower*
LIFELONG Discipleship Formation vs. complacent “Christian” piety, simply teaching good morals, or offering the latest programs

- “The righteousness that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God based on faith.” (PHIL. 3:9B)
- From the cradle to the grave seeking to be formed for right living with God and with all people.
- Faith — seeking understanding, cultivating wisdom, and actively following Christ. It is not an extra-curricular activity nor merely head-knowledge.
- Discipleship awakened and engaged in issues facing today’s culture: injustice, inequality, divisive segregation, oppression, suffering, abuse of creation.
- Discipleship formed and strengthened in the community of Christ and permeates daily practices and daily living.

Bethany's Virtual Coffee Hour is cooking with Gas!

Each Sunday after our live worship service we have a 30 Minute Virtual Coffee Hour where you will have the opportunity to talk with other members of our church family face to face in small groups of about 6 people! Remember we ask that you turn on your PC camera so we can all see your smiling faces, so be sure to wear your best PJ's!!

Here is an image of the group from a Sunday's Coffee Hour. All went very smoothly. Once you get online we break out into smaller groups so everyone gets a chance to talk or just listen, as you choose.

If you are having troubles using Facebook and or Zoom to watch the live Worship services or to join our coffee hour, please contact the church office at 663-3000 and they will get you in touch with someone who might be able to help.

Keep Safe, Stay Well and Be Kind,
God Bless, Ron

Join Zoom by phone only by calling +1 (646) 558-8656 on your land line or (646) 558-8656 on your cellular phone (there may be a long distance charge) and enter the following Meeting ID# 243 911 4010 when prompted, followed by the # sign.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2439114010>



Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

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