

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
August 11th, 2024
12th Sunday after Pentecost

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Watch what God does: mostly God loves us.

P: We would learn a life of such love so we might do as God does.

L: Watch how Christ loves us: not with caution, but with extravagance.

P: We would practice such lavish love, not noticing what it costs us.

L: Watch how the Spirit loves us: moving in us, breathing love into us.

P: We would live such love for others, keeping company with God.

***HYMN "Blessed Assurance" #345**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION*

L: It's this simple - God loves us. But our inactions grieve God, our sins break God's heart. In Christ, God forgives us through and through. Let us confess our failures and our faithlessness, trusting in God's promise to make us new.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

ALL: We break your heart, God of all the world, by the respectable lives we lead. Blessed by you with every gift, we practice thrift towards others. Seeking to be good and proper Christians, we overlook you in the company of the poor, the oppressed, those without a voice. We choose to spread gossip about our friends and neighbors, when we could speak gently to them.

Forgive us for the pain we cause you and other people, Grieving God. Help us to make a clean break with those habits which keep us from wholeness. Open us to the movement of your Spirit within us. Feed us with the Bread of Life, so we might have the love and passion to feed the world. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: It is really that simple - God loves us. Through the Holy Spirit, God works in us, transfiguring our old ways, breathing life and love into us.

P: We receive God's grace, so we can offer it to others. We are caressed in God's gentleness, so we can hold the broken. We will be quick to forgive, even as God has forgiven 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 with "The peace of Christ be with you")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

***Doxology #625**

Prayer of Dedication*

May we imitate your generosity, Gracious God, as we offer these gifts to you. May we model your justice, as we seek to bring hope to the broken all around us. May we share the gift of your love with all who are alone and hurting, and simply looking for grace in their lives. This we pray in the name of our Bread, Jesus Christ. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Lesson 2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33 p.280

New Testament Lesson Ephesians 4:25-5:2 p.1019

Gospel Lesson John 6: 35,41-51 p.928

MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CP

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed**

***HYMN "More Love to Thee, O Christ" #363**

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

*BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Go, with the God of gentleness, into the world.

P: We will go to offer passionate justice for all

L: Go with the Bread of life into the world.

P: We will share compassion with the needy in our communities.

L: Go with the Spirit of holiness into the world.

P: We will speak the good news, even with our fumbling words.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be With You"

God be with you till we meet again;
By His coun-sels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again

God be with you till we meet again;
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

**Please stand if you are able*

***© Rev. Thom Shuman*

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER:

Do the best you can, without straining yourself too much and too continuously, and leave the rest to God. If you strain yourself too much you'll have to ask God to patch you up. And for all you know, patching you up may take time that it was planned to use some other way.-- Don Marquis

He who believes has eternal life.

John 6:47



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Blaine Street at Chandler Avenue
Johnstown, PA**