

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
December 25, 2022 Christmas Day

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In snow-capped churches, and on sand-strewn beaches,

P: God's people gather in joy to celebrate a birth.

L: With hopes littering our hearts like wrapping paper under a tree,

P: We offer our thanks and praise for the gift of grace swaddled in love.

L: With eyes wide open like little children, with hearts full of wonder and laughter,

P: We join our lives with Mary and Joseph, with the shepherds who ran to tell the good news.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

CAROL "The First Noel" #136

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: On this morning of love and joy, of laughter and families, we must remember and confess how we dampen the spirits of others, speak hurtful words to those we love, turn our backs on those in need. Join me, as we pray together saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

**Manger-dwelling God, we heard the songs of the angels, yet we easily tune-out the cries of the needy;
we feel the breath of our children on our faces,
yet remain untouched by your Spirit of peace;
we are surrounded by gifts as precious as those brought by the Wise Ones, yet have trouble sharing with those who are from other countries, other faiths.**

Forgive us, Grace swaddled in mystery.

**We believe in Christmas, help us to believe in you even more; we hunger for happiness, feed us on your peace;
we long for community and acceptance, surround us with our brothers and sisters we find in all those, of every age**

and every place, who follow and serve alongside our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate this day. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Born that day was grace – for the broken and bereft;
born that day was hope – for the vulnerable and forgotten;
born that day was love – for all of us!

P: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! We will go to tell others of all we have seen, heard, experienced, and know.

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.")

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 52:7-10 p. 633

CAROL "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" #135

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 98 p.519

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #128

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 1:1-12 p.1044

CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High" #132

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20 p.889

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #141

THE GIFTS WE BRING

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

#625

MEDITATION

Denise Ann Todero, CP

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(All who believe are welcome to celebrate Holy Communion)

(See bulletin insert)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CAROL "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" #152

BENEDICTION**

L: Let us go,

P: to join the angels in singing of God's glory and grace.

L: Let us go to share the good news,

P: that Jesus, the brother of the vulnerable and forgotten is in our midst still.

L: Let us go to offer peace and goodwill to everyone,

P: joining the Spirit in telling of all we have seen and heard.

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



Offering: 12/18
Local 238.50
Benev. 16.50
Improv. 14.00
Pantry 20.00
Total 289.00

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

Sunday January 1st
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Thank You to everyone who donated gifts for our Christmas family. They appreciated all of the wonderful gifts and it definitely helped make their Christmas brighter.

Sign Ups for 2023 Lay Leaders are now being accepted. You can now sign up for a full month or for a single week. If you would like to help out, sign up on the back bulletin board. Contact Pastor Denise with any questions.

Weekly Flower and Bulletins for 2023 are now available. The cost is \$25 per week for flowers and \$10 per week for bulletins. If you purchase flowers and bulletins for the same week the cost is \$30. To reserve a week, sign up on the back bulletin board or fill out the form on the church website.

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!

Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory Of

Harold & Helen Brewer
Charles and Betty Molnar
Milford (Jake) Johnson
Cindy Griffin
Barbara Miller
Cherie Glessner
Ralph Clemenson
The Barefoot Family
Thomas
Louis & Mary Barclay
Barclay
Dick & Alma Todero
Harry & Shirley Weaver
Leona Clemenson
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones

In Honor Of

Service Men & Women
Family
Grammy Denise
Our Children & Grandchildren

Given By

Brenda Molnar
Brenda Molnar
His Girls
John Griffin
John Griffin
John Griffin
Betty Clemenson & Family
Linda (Barefoot) & Carl

Pastor Denise & Pete

Pastor Denise & Pete Barclay
Pastor Denise & Pete Barclay
Gail, Renee, and Gary
Jessie Rager
Linda Orlidge
David Hayduk

Given By

Brenda Molnar
Brenda Molnar
Logan and Landon
Pastor Denise & Pete Barclay

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Now, may Bethlehem's Child bless you! **And also bless you!**

Now, may the children of God open their hearts.

We offer them to the One who loves us each and every morning.

Now, may we join in the songs of the angels.

We join our voices with those of every time and place.

In the silenced night of chaos, creation rejoiced with the carols of wonders.....we sing carols of praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of all turned away by the world. Creation joins the angels in praising you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who clears the Way for us to walk.

Hosanna in the highest!

In the silence of the night, God of holiness, your Child crept in among us.....we sing carols of that mystery we call faith:

Christ was born, so we might have life;

Christ died, so we might have forgiveness;

Christ was raised, so we might have resurrection;

Christ will be born again, to gather us together with him.

In the silence of these holy moments.....

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

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.