

I Am the Light of the World
(Second Sunday in Lent)

When we walk in the darkness, the way is not clear to us. We stumble about, placing ourselves in danger unaware. On the other hand, when we walk in the light our way is clear. We are able to see the pitfalls and avoid them, moving with assurance toward our goal. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He is a sure beacon by which to guide our lives and our interactions with others.

Light brings out the beauty in us. Dinner by candlelight makes each person around the table seem radiant with their natural, inner beauty. But, light makes evident our unloveliness as well. Our imperfections cannot be hidden in the light. Such things as our anger or harshness or jealousy or selfishness are there for all to see.

Often, we Christians view the light as being too ideal, too much for us to accomplish. We stray from the light into the darkness because the light requires too much of us. It has a way of making us uncomfortable at times, and it often clashes with what we prefer to do.

Through the centuries, well-meaning Christians have strayed from the path into the darkness. Wars have been waged in the name of God. Villages have been plundered and destroyed in the name of the church. Some persons have been enslaved. Rights have been denied to others.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He did not come to support tradition. He did not come to justify our misconceptions about God. He did not come to judge us for our shortcomings. He came to bring light into the world. If we keep our eyes steadfastly fastened upon Jesus and his teaching, the way will be clear. He does not promise us the way will be easy; in fact, he warns us that it is just the opposite. But, as rocky and difficult as it may become at times, with Jesus lighting the way, we can and will be builders of the kingdom.

Another aspect of this theme focuses upon light as a form of energy, calling us into accountability as good stewards of our resources. Are we free to be irresponsible with the light provided upon earth? As the world faces the certainty of diminishing energy sources, will we truly see ourselves plunged into darkness because of poor stewardship? What can we as Christians do about this?

I am the light of the world

John 8.12



Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
March 13th, 2022 2nd Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP-I Am the Light of the World

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:

P: to wait in silence for the Word, to sit at the Table of grace.

L: Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

P: to bring hope to those who have none, to love all tossed aside by indifference.

L: The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

P: so we might discover the gift of peace, and offer it to our broken world.

HYMN "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #435

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: Join me in imitating all who have gone before us, who trusted that if they spoke of their misdeeds and hollow hearts, God would not only hear them, but forgive them. Let us pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: Offered a feast at grace's table, God of the covenant, we choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed. Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance.

But you will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, Mothering God, but will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us up, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

P: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests upon us and gives us hope and mercy.

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 you have blessed us beyond all expectation and need, we would join in imitating you, by offering gifts which will bring hope, healing, and help to those who struggle in this life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18	p.11
New Testament Lesson	Philipians 3:17-4:1	p.1024
Gospel Lesson	Luke 13:31-35	p.907

MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CP

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- The Apostles' Creed
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and the LORD'S 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.**

HYMN " There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" #252

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, go with God:

P: we will take the Word of grace into our world.

L: Today, tomorrow, and the next days, go with Jesus:

P: we will shelter those who have nowhere else to go.

L: Today, tomorrow, and all the days to come, go with the Spirit:

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace"

**** © Rev. Thom Shuman**

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Tomi Nosko and Landon Heptner

Offering: 03/06
Attendance: 17
Local 1036.40
Benev. 71.80
Improv. 60.80
Total 1169.00

Sunday March 13th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday March 20th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



Upper Rooms will be arriving late and will be distributed once we receive them. Thank you for your patience.

Sign Ups for 2022 Lay Leaders are now being accepted. Take a month for yourself or share a month with someone. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board. Contact Pastor Denise for more information.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships for 2022 are now being accepted. If you are interested, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

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 as we approach the holiday season.

Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Pastor Denise	Ruby Porch
Don Bennett	Christine Paratore
Phyllis Pfuhl	David Hayduk
Harry Thiel	Martha Minahan
Lois Henry	Susie Keefer
Dawna Sheets	Chloe Kern
Al & Linda Hockenberry	Jim Kuntz
Buzz & Jeanne Lehman	David Demo
Bob & Marie Whorl	Linda Hayes
Bev Holbay	All Shut- Ins
Wendy Manges	All in Nursing Homes
Mark Todero	All First Responders
Diane Brewer	All Service Men & Women
The Todero Family	All Healthcare Professionals
Shirley Gavazoni	

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!