

**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**January 1st, 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: All creation, all people: praise the Lord!

**P: stars shooting across the sky, sing glad songs to our God!**

L: Snow clouds approaching, birds sitting on a branch:  
praise the Lord!

**P: Sleeping cats and barking dogs, sing new choruses of praise!**

L: Rich and poor, leaders and followers: praise the Lord!

**P: Old and young, families and singles, we will lift our joy to our God!**

**HYMN "Joy to the World!" vs.1 & 4 #125**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: We know all that God has done for us, as well as all we could have done for others. Let us confess to God our failures and foibles, as we pray together, saying,

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We could proclaim your name, God of this holy season, but we spend too much time talking about celebrities. We could tell others about all your gracious deeds, but are comparing notes about the exploits of our favorite athletes. We could let your Word guide our lives, but instead we do what the politicians think is best.**

**Why? Because we forget who we are called to be. But you remember, Faithful God. You remember that we put our trust in others, not you; you remember how we chase after idols, not follow you; you remember to save us in our distress, which is why you sent Jesus to us, our Lord, our Savior.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: In the silence, in the dreams, in the wonder, in the words, God comes to save us and have mercy on us.

**P: It is fitting that we offer our thanks and praise to the One who forgives 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 by saying, "The Peace of Christ be With You.")*

**REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE**

**Offertory**

**Doxology**

**#625**

**Prayer of Dedication\*\***

As we offer our gifts to you, Holy One, may they join all creation in blessing and serving your people. Called to be your people, may we notice those who are forgotten and offer our lives and hearts to them. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**First Lesson Isaiah 63:7-9 p.642**

**Second Lesson Hebrews 2:10-18 p.1044**

**Gospel Lesson Matthew 2:13-23 p.836**

**MESSAGE**

**Denise Ann Todero, CRE**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed**

**HYMN "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" vs. 1 & 2 #131**

**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\*\***

Praising God is not enough.

**And so we will go to offer practical help to our sisters and brothers.**

Joyful noises do not feed those around us.

**And so we will go with Jesus to the food pantries and shelters,**

**to care for those forgotten by our society.**

Songs of thanksgiving do not replace service.

**And so we will go to share the peace of the Spirit with a broken, yet hopeful world.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**"God Be With You"**

**#602**

**\*\* © Rev. Thom Shuman**

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER: Denise Ann Todero**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner**

*Be sure of this:*

*there is no creature ever made by God who can set you free or help you; only God can do it.*

*Run about as you will, search high and low the whole world over, you will never find the help you need anywhere except in God.*

*If the Lord chooses to use an instrument, man or angel, to achieve this, He can;*

*but He must do it and no one else.*

*Seek this help inside yourself, the depths of your soul;  
stop running around, stop searching up and down the countryside;  
be still, be calm, stay where you are, in Egypt, in darkness,  
until the angel comes to call you.*

*Joseph was asleep when the angel called him.*

*John Tauler, German mystic*



*Happy New Year  
From All Of Us At  
Bethany Presbyterian Church*

**Offering: 12/25**  
**Attendance: 31**  
**Local 678.20**  
**Benev. 47.00**  
**Improv. 39.80**  
**Christmas 120.00**  
**Total 885.00**

**Saturday January 1st**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday January 9th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Baptism of the Lord**  
**Sunday/Communion**

**The Bulletins Today** are given by Buzz & Jeanne Lehman.

**The Annual Congregational Business Meeting** will be held on Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> before Morning Worship. We will also Install our new officers during the Service. There will be a Coffee Hour after the Service. If you plan on bringing a covered dish, please sign up on the back bulletin board. All are invited to attend

**Offering Envelopes** for 2023 are on the back table. If you haven't gotten yours yet, be sure to pick them up before you leave today.

**Suggested Per Capita for 2023** is \$40 per person. Feel free to contribute more if you'd like. Please use the special envelope marked Per Capita to make this contribution.

**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	Nancy Thomas
Shirley Gavazoni	All Shut- Ins
Linda & Richard Oaks	All in Nursing Homes
Sean Rovon	All First Responders
Carl & Linda Thomas	All Service Men & Women
Kenny Rager	All Healthcare Professionals

**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](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for the latest news, information and much more!