

**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**September 1st, 2024 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 17**

**CALL TO WORSHIP \*\***

L: Here, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:

**P: calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we have been given.**

L: Now, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our land:

**P: calling us to generous acts, to open our hearts to all in need.**

L: In every place, in every moment, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in all creation:

**P: calling us to generous acts, to stand with God's people: the least, the lost, the little, the last.**

**HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (vs 1&4) #8**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: Do we honor God only with our lips, while keeping our hearts from the Holy One? Do we deceive ourselves, thinking we are religious rather than living faithful lives? Let us confess to God our sin, trusting in the One who seeks to make us whole.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION \*\***

**ALL: Holy One of leaders and little children, we hear your words every day, but rarely live them out. Our anger roars like a flooded creek, but our forgiveness drips like a rusty faucet. Our impetuous tongues rush to judgment, while our words of hope sound like a sluggish soundtrack. We listen with impatient ears to the cries of the poor.**

**Father of Lights, may your mercy fall on us like a summer shower on parched grass; may your hope overflow our hearts; may your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ, speak to us and call us to life.**

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON \*\***

L: Listen and understand - the voice of the Beloved speaks to us, implanting the word of hope, the word of grace, and the word of forgiveness into our hearts.

**We listen and understand. Every gift comes from God, especially the gifts of mercy and love.**

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 a virtual hug or handshake or wave saying "The peace of Christ be with you")*

**REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE**

**Offertory**

**Doxology**

**#625**

**Prayer of Dedication\*\***

Let us be slow in our yearning to hang on to our blessings, and quick to share them with the hungry, the lonely, the forgotten, and the hurting of our world, that our gifts might become a kind of first fruits for those whose lives are so empty. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Old Testament Lesson Song of Solomon 2:8-13 p.581**

**New Testament Lesson James 1:17-27 p.1054**

**Gospel Lesson Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23 p.874**

**MESSAGE Tammy Noss**

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

**HYMN "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" #345**

## 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: Arise, and let us go forth as God's people.

**P: Look! God sends us forth with songs of love on our lips.**

L: Arise, and let us go forth to serve beside Jesus.

**P: Look! He stands, waiting for us to help tear down the barriers of injustice.**

L: Arise, and let us go forth to join the generous Spirit.

**P: Look! We will be doers as well as givers with our gifts.**

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be With You"

God be with you till we meet again; By His counsels 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.

\*\* © *Rev. Thom Shuman*

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

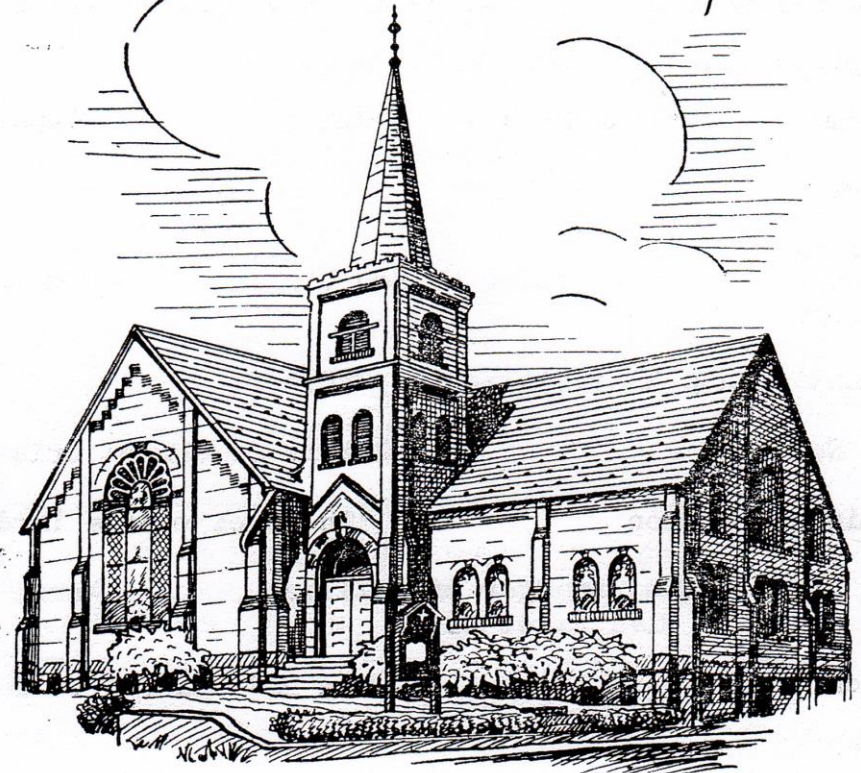
**GUEST SPEAKER: Tammy Noss**

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

*One of the great troubles of life is that we do not take the commands and the demands of God sufficiently seriously. Somehow, although we know them so well, we are often prepared just to ignore them or to forget them, as if they did not matter very much. When we disobey God, when we take our own way, we are not so much breaking God's law as we are breaking God's heart. One of the things which keeps us from doing many a wrong action is simply the fear to hurt those we love. If we remembered how our thoughtlessness and our disobedience hurt the heart of God, then we would fear and dread to disobey him.....*

*William Barclay, Everyday with William Barclay*

# BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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