

I am

the vine

John 15.5



**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 4th Sunday in Lent**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP- I Am the Vine**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come, let us praise the Lord, who has given us the true vine, Jesus Christ.

**P: We are the branches. Let us give thanks that we abide in the Lord and that the Lord abides in us.**

L: Let us worship the Lord and bear witness to God, that we may be fruitful.

**\*HYMN                      "Jesus Calls Us"                      #375**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Almighty God, we come before you acknowledging that we are your people, and that we have fallen short of your desires for us. We strive for success through your own strength, forgetting our need of you. We fail to remember that you are the vine through which we are nourished and through which our lives become fruitful. But, apart from you, we labor in vain O God.**

**Our lives become wracked with personal problems, our ministry becomes a hectic round of committee meetings, and our spiritual lives wither. Forgive us, O God, we pray, for our barren lives. Prune us that we may become fruitful and glorify you. We pray in the name of Jesus, the True Vine. Amen.**

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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**

## **LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

Old Testament Lesson     1 Samuel 16:1-13     p.248

**New Testament                      Ephesians 5: 8-14                      p.1019**

Gospel                      John 9:1-41                      p.932

MESSAGE     Denise Ann Todero, CRE

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH    The Apostle's Creed**

**\*HYMN                      "Open My Eyes, That I May See"                      #381**

## **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**

**\*HYMN                      "Near the Cross"                      #385**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

L: Remember that you are the branches; apart from the vine you are nothing.

**P: Through the vine, our lives are nourished and enriched. All of our needs are provided, and we bear fruit for God.**

L: Go now in peace, and abide in God's love, as God abides in you. And, through this, others may see, and glorify God.

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**"Blest Be The Tie That Binds" 1<sup>st</sup> verse**

**#286**

***\*Those who are able please stand.***

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Ray Sheets

**I Am the Vine**

*(Fourth Sunday in Lent)*

The vine draws food from the earth to provide the branches with nourishment. When the branch is severed from the vine, it withers and dies. Likewise, it is through the branches that the vine bears fruit. The mutual indwelling of the vine and the branches results in fruitfulness.

When Jesus referred to himself as the vine and to us as the branches, he was alluding to the life giving force that he brings into our lives. Apart from him, we become wracked with personal problems; our ministry becomes little more than a hectic round of committee meetings and activities; and we experience very little spiritual growth. As a part of the vine, we become fruitful. Our witness to the Lord Jesus Christ becomes productive, and our ministry brings glory to the living God.

The vine cannot bear fruit without the branches. When we do not witness and others do not experience the love of God through us, the vine is barren. With Christ as the center of our lives, persons experience the nature of God through our lives. They see Christ mirrored in us, and we bear fruit for the vine.

**Offering: 3/19**  
**Attendance: 32**

<b>Local</b>	<b>405.40</b>
<b>Benev.</b>	<b>31.20</b>
<b>Improv.</b>	<b><u>26.40</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>508.00</b>

**Sunday March 26th**  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Coffee Hour After Worship**

**Sunday April 2nd**  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Items for the Newsletter** are due by March 26th. Please submit all items to Ed Sheets or email them to [esheets91@hotmail.com](mailto:esheets91@hotmail.com).

**The annual Easter Sunday Breakfast and Basket Auction** will begin at 9 a.m. on Easter Sunday. If you are planning on attending the breakfast, please sign up on the back bulletin board. We are also looking for baskets for the auction. If you are able to make a basket, please bring it to the church by Palm Sunday. Please provide a description of the basket and a suggested starting bid.

**Spaghetti Dinner** tickets, flyers, and donation letters are available. If you would like to purchase tickets, or if you can sell tickets, please contact Ray Sheets. Flyers and donation letters are on the back table. If you plan on taking a donation letter anywhere, please mark it on the sheet in the folder or let Ed Sheets know.

**Lift Johnstown** will hold its Project Party on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 p.m. For more info, see the flyer in the back.

**Good Friday Breakfast** will be held on Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Johnstown. For more info, see the flyer in the back.

**Wednesday Night Services** are being held at Grace Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. The theme is At The Crossroads of Faith and Life. All are welcome to attend



<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
Don & Marlene Bennett	Bill & Patty Gramling
Michael Robert Rose III	Bill Kegg
Darlene Rager	Justin Korenoski
Phyllis Pfuhl	Kathy & Robert Wilks
Harry & Lillian Thiel	Marlene Rager
Lois Henry	Logan Weaver
Melinda Mendoza	Matthew Gramling
Jim Runkle Sr.	Larry Holbay
Katherine Minahan	George Hockenberry
The Fockler Family	Lilyana Newfield
Jack Forsha	Sharon Weaver
Dan Kresko	Melissa Zeisman
Olivia & Patrick Bragdon	Elizabeth Kern
Dick Dunkle	Wanda Keifer
Lenore Runkle	John & Cindy Griffin
Anne Fattman	Jake Johnson
Andy Serafin	Charles Molnar
William Ribblett	Ina Miller
Gary Close	The Shroyer Family
Ken Bilger	All Shut- Ins
Francine Calpin	All in Nursing Homes
Rose Marie Oravetz	All Service Men & Women

**To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names** in the bulletin contact Ed Sheets at 539-3495 or email at esheets91@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.

## **Easter Flowers**

Orders are now being taken for Easter Flowers. The cost is \$7 each and orders are due by Sunday, April 2nd. Orders can be placed in the offering plate, mailed back to the church, or given to Ray Sheets or Tami Shroyer.

**NAME:**

**LILIES:**            \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**TULIPS:**            \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**HYACINTHS:**        \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:**

**In Honor Of:**

**Given By:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pick Up On Easter Sunday**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Donate To A Shut-In**