

**Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA**  
**Morning Worship**  
**April 3rd, 2022 5th Sunday in Lent**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP – I Am the Way, the Truth  
and the Life**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: We come to this place because we want to know God,

**P: who helps us set aside the past, to walk the path to new life.**

L: We come in these moments because we want to know Jesus,

**P: who anoints us with the resurrection, who shares our lives with us.**

L: We come with these people because we want to know the Spirit,

**P: who shapes us for life with God, so we may praise God forever!**

**HYMN "Fairest Lord Jesus" verses 1 and 4 #88**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: As we offer our prayers of confession, remember that God chooses to forget about our past, forgiving us so we may embrace the new life and new hope offered to us in grace. I invite you to join me, as we pray together,

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

**ALL: Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we see a perceived golden past, and so close our eyes to the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus.**

**Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

**P: Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone.**

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**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**#625**

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

Old Testament	Isaiah 43:16-21	p.624
New Testament	Philippians 3:4b-14	p.1023
Gospel	John 12:1-8	p.936
Message	Denise Ann Todero, CP	

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

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

**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: And now, God sends us out into our communities,

**P: not to cling to a faded past, but to share all the new things God is doing.**

L: And now, Jesus calls us to notice those around us,

**P: to shower them with hope, to feed them from our deep pantries, to welcome them as family.**

L: And now, the Spirit anoints us with grace,

**P: to make a way through the injustices around us so we might walk with our sisters and brothers into the kingdom springing forth in our midst.**

## **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** "Let There Be Peace"

**\*\*Rev. Thom Shuman ©**

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Brenda Molnar**

### **I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life**

*(Fifth Sunday in Lent)*

Never before in our history has there been such a widespread interest in the occult, cultic religious sects, witchcraft, transcendental meditation, ESP, and the like. In our fast-paced, anxiety-ridden society, people are searching hungrily for peace of mind. The drug culture has risen to overwhelming heights and alcoholism has reached alarming proportions especially among young people.

It has been said that there is a God-shaped void in each of us. Nothing can fill that longing except a personal relationship with God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, the life." It is through Christ that we come to know God. Through him we come to grips with and find communion and fellowship with God.

As we come to know God better through Christ, we grow closer to God. Our knowledge of God must be experiential, not solely intellectual, and it is for this purpose that Jesus came into the world.

**Jesus is the way** — the true way to God and to meaningful and everlasting life. He points the way to the nature of God and what God expects of God's people.

**Jesus is the truth.** He is a true image of the true God, not the twisted understanding we sometimes have of God.

**Jesus is the life.** Through him we can live triumphantly, unfettered by the cares, temptations, and disappointments that are so integral a part of our human existence. The frustrations will come. Following Christ does not exempt us from them. But, they need not cripple us or bind us so that our lives are meaningless. Jesus truly is the way, the truth, the life.

# I am the way, the truth, the life

John 14.6



Offering: 03/27  
 Attendance:  
 Local 1172.00  
 Benev. 81.25  
 Improv. 68.75  
 Roof 80.00  
 Total 1402.00

**Sunday April 3rd**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday April 10th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Palm Sunday**



**Today Is The Last** Day to submit orders for Easter Flowers. Please use the form in your bulletin to place your order.

**Upper Room** subscription fees are due now. The cost is \$8 for the year and money can be given to Ray Sheets.

**Maundy Thursday Service** will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Grace Lutheran Church. The service begins at 7 p.m. and are invited to attend.

**Join Us** for Easter Sunday here at Bethany on April 17th. the service begins at 10:30 a.m. and all are invited to attend.

**Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships** for 2022 are available for most Sundays. 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.

<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
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	Don Merritts
Wendy Manges	All Shut- Ins
Mark Todero	All in Nursing Homes
Diane Brewer	All First Responders
The Todero Family	All Service Men & Women
Shirley Gavazoni	All Healthcare Professionals
Linda & Richard Oaks	

**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!