

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

February 23, 2020

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Praeludium in D major BuxWV139”

Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Sisters and brothers: by the grace of God we have been raised with Christ to new life.

People: We have been freed from every fear and have been embraced by grace. With songs of praise and with deep gratitude, let us worship God.

*HYMN #275

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN’FESTE BURG

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you. And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and only treat others the way you wish to be treated. Do not initiate divisions, but rather let us bring peace to our hearts and to the world.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy God, you lavish us with good gifts. All too often we persist in seeking after that which robs us of abundant life. We hold fast to our anxieties. We give into our envy and greed. We desire the very things that harm us and others. Too often—individually and collectively—we “in our own strength confide;” and our striving is but losing. Forgive us and purify us. Sustain us by the strength of your Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us in silence ask for forgiveness of our own personal sins.

(Silence)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The saying is sure, and is worthy of complete acceptance:

People: Christ Jesus entered the world to rescue sinners. He personally bore our sins in his body so that we may be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.

Leader: As people of faith, called by God:

People: We believe and trust in the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE** – “Gloria Patri” Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you. **People: And also with you!**

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS [Children may leave for “Roots and Wings” activities in the Large Hall, and return to their pews after the sermon.]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Dear God, we trust that you desire that in all places, in all times, and in all seasons you love us, and desire the wholeness that our hearts seek. As we hear the reading of Scripture remind us that we have been raised with Christ. Inspire us to seek the things that are above, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

I Samuel 17:32-40 page 228 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 4:35-41 page 816 in the pew Bible

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Light of the World”

Bethany Choir

Edward Elgar

SERMON

“Why Are You Afraid?”

Dr. Val Fowler

The sermons I will preach each month this year will take us on a journey through the Bible, focusing on “Questions the Bible Asks.” We read the Bible; the Bible also reads us. We bring our questions to God in prayer and in personal reflection and in the faith community; God brings questions to us. Throughout the Bible, God (or agents of God) ask questions. These questions go to the roots of living the faithful life—both for individuals and for faith communities. We will time each month delving into these questions.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN #840**

“It Is Well With My Soul”

VELLE DU HAVRE

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Congregational Response: “Lord, we praise you.” or “Lord, hear our prayer”

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS

(As the offering is received, please sign, pass, and return the pew pads. Please provide your full name, address, phone number, and check if you are a visitor or a member.)

OFFERTORY

“Meditation”

Paul Manz

***HYMN #606**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)**

Holy One, Lover of Creation: Thank you for the richness of our lives and the richness of this world. Bless these offerings, that they may be used as tangible expressions of your steadfast love, especially for those in need—near and far. Amen.

***HYMN #686**

“God of Our Life”

SANDON

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“God of Grace”

Paul Manz

Val Fowler is a retired minister member of Genesee Valley Presbytery, and lives in Honeoye Falls. He moved to this area and served Chili Presbyterian Church and Honeoye Falls Presbyterian Church. He also served 20 years as presbytery stated clerk. He has consulted with congregations and planning groups in the areas of generosity, nominating committee work, and leadership development. One of the nicest blessings of retirement is the gracious invitation of the Bethany session and pastor, to preach at Bethany once a month.

CHILDCARE is available from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM in the Church Nursery located across from the Church Library for newborns through Pre-K.

THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:

Deacons: Dave Anderson, Dick Bauman, Sandy Ericson, Sue Kretovic, Journey Spratt,
Lay Liturgist: Karen Gullo

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Pam Auld, David Ballerstein, Mary Brown, Dennis Ciehomski, Holly Ciehomski (Michelle Ciehomski's niece), Shirley Dennett (Charlie Dennett's Mom), Pauline Gaul, Jenny Green, Richard Hamlin (Dave & Edna Hamlin's son), Victoria Haskins, Mark Klotzbach, Theresa Kretovic, Cliff Streams, Tom Tickner (Bev Murray's brother-in-law), Brian VanGriethuysen.

Please welcome to the pulpit this morning Dr. Val Fowler. Dr. Bob is on vacation.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to friends and family of Chris Duff at her passing.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: We continue our own tradition of preparing for Easter by gathering together in the sanctuary on February 26, at 7 pm for an Ash Wednesday worship service with the imposition of ashes.

FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER FOR SCOUTS: Scout Troop 240 and Cub Pack 240 are holding a flapjack fundraiser at Applebee's on Ridge Rd W. near 390. It will be held Sunday March 1st from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Tickets are \$7.00 and will be sold after worship this morning, February 23. Come and support our scouts!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The week of March 2nd Christian Flooring will be replacing all of Bethany's old, worn out first floor carpeting. We're looking for volunteers that can help us move furniture etc, which is helping to keep our cost down and speed up the installation. Please contact Sharon [663-3000 or snichols.bethany@gmail.com] if you can help that week. Look forward to hearing from you!

SOCKS: Kristine Inguaggiato has let us know that many children at School 42 have been coming to school without wearing any socks this winter. Please consider donating boys and girls socks for shoe sizes 5 - 11 to help keep their feet warm. You can leave them in the red bin near the CGM bulletin board. Thank you!

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: This year, as part of our Vital Congregations Initiative, we will hold a Lenten Bible Study every Wednesday from March 4 through April 15 in the Large Hall. We will begin at 6:00 pm with a Soup and Bread supper prepared by our own Pat Hemmenway. Our Bible Study will begin at 6:30 pm and run to 7:00 pm. Please be sure to sign-up for this class after worship outside the sanctuary or by calling the church office.

LENTEN CONCERTS AND WORSHIP: On Thursdays, beginning March 12 and ending on April 2 we will hold a free concert from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. At 7 pm we will hold a 30-minute worship service with communion by intinction.

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: All of us at one time or another needs a listening ear. Someone we feel comfortable with and we know is confidential. There are many reasons or circumstances that bring us to a time when we need someone to talk to. At our Bethany Presbyterian Women's meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, Kim Bolinger will be sharing how Stephen Ministers: build awareness of Stephen Ministry within the congregation and community, recruit and train Stephen Ministers, meet with potential care receivers to assess their needs, match care receivers with Stephen Ministers, provide Stephen Ministers with ongoing supervision and continuing education. As always all are welcome to join us.

DESIGNATED PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (DPNC) UPDATE: The DPNC met with Committee on Ministry (COM, one of the Presbytery governing bodies) liaison Mary Cowden in December and is meeting regularly. The first step was to complete the Ministry Information Form (MIF) that contains detailed information about our church and the qualities we are looking for in an Associate Pastor. The next step is to present it to Session at their next meeting. Once Session approves the form, the MIF goes to the Committee on Ministry for approval. From there, the form is then entered online for candidates to see. The COM will vet candidates for us and the DPNC will then interview candidates for the position. The DPNC is excited by the prospect of having a youth leader and has asked for God's guiding hand in this process. Look forward to exciting updates in the near future. Keep us in your prayers! Carrie Buri, Ken Connor, Cheryl Fisher, Craig Johnson, Linda Lamb, Jen McGarrity, Tracey Melville

EMERGENCY CONTACT: At times, families or individuals may find they need pastoral support for various reasons ranging from a long-term matter or an emergency. In the event of a pastoral emergency, this can be sought by calling the church office (585) 663-3000 during normal business hours or after hours at (585) 496-4699. In addition, there are several members of the congregation that can be called on for support called Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. To receive support from a Stephen Minister contact Kim Bolinger at (585) 227-2540 or Wendy Watt (585) 415-2351.

SHIPMATES: Please join the Shipmates on Saturday March 14, for an Automotive presentation by Matt Fronk regarding: overview of the automobile industry leading up to today, what the future holds and where Matt see's us going with the combustion engine versus electric, fuel cell, CNG and other technologies. Matt developed and led GM Fuel Cell Research team in Honeoye Falls over a 20 year period from 1st concepts to an application in a 100 vehicle fleet of Chevy Equinoxes. Matt is currently an Alternative Energy Consultant. He is a seasoned Automotive Executive with broad background in both strategic development, R&D, and engineering for Advanced technologies including fuel cells, batteries, bio-fuels, gas and diesel fuel injection, hybrids and valve train components. This meeting will be held in Bethany's Large Hall at noon. A sandwich lunch will be served for a cost of \$5 per person. Sign-up after church on Sunday's in the narthex with Dave Anderson. Deadline: March 7.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY: When ordering flowers for the sanctuary, Helen West must receive the check before flowers can be ordered. Order forms and envelopes are in the brown box in the narthex.

SAVE THE DATE: Spaghetti Dinner 2020 Bethany Youth Fellowship's annual Spaghetti Dinner will be April 18, 2020. We hope to see you there!

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	2/23	9 am	Every Day Spirit (Library)
Sunday	2/23	9 am	Present Word (Mini Hall)
Sunday	2/23	9 am	Serendipity (Small Hall)
Sunday	2/23	9:15 am	Bethany Choir (Sanctuary)
Sunday	2/23	10 am	Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings (Sanctuary)
Sunday	2/23	11:10 am	Elementary Sunday School (Basement)
Sunday	2/23	11:10 am	Junior High Sunday School (Third Floor)
Sunday	2/23	11:15 am	High School Sunday School (Third Floor)
Monday	2/24	10 am	Library Volunteers (Library)
Monday	2/24	6:30 pm	Personnel Committee (Library)
Monday	2/24	7 pm	Life Group #2 (Bolinger's)
Tuesday	2/25	10 am	Belles & Beaux (Sanctuary)
Wednesday	2/26	10 am	Staff Meeting (Library)
Wednesday	2/26	7 pm	Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)
Wednesday	2/26	7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers (Sanctuary)
Thursday	2/27	7:15 pm	Bethany Choir (Music Room)
Sunday	3/1	9 am	Every Day Spirit (Library)
Sunday	3/1	9 am	Present Word (Mini Hall)
Sunday	3/1	9 am	Serendipity (Small Hall)
Sunday	3/1	9:15 am	Bethany Choir (Sanctuary)
Sunday	3/1	10 am	Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings (Sanctuary)
Sunday	3/1	11:10 am	Elementary Sunday School (Basement)
Sunday	3/1	11:10 am	Junior High Sunday School (Third Floor)
Sunday	3/1	11:15 am	High School Sunday School (Third Floor)

Bethany Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

www.bethanyrochester.org

663-3000

Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM