

**Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA  
MORNING WORSHIP November 19th, 2023  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: This is the Lord's Day, the day of wonder and grace.

**P: This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.**

L: This is the Lord's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.

**P: This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.**

L: This is the Lord's Day, and it has come just in time!

**P: This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love.**

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

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

When we remember all the mistakes we have made, all the careless words we have spoken, all the contempt we have given to those around us, we have trouble looking God in the eye. But God gazes at us with mercy and love, waiting to forgive us, even as we hesitate to speak of the brokenness of our hearts.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION \*\***

**Again we must confess, Master of the Universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others.**

**Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make.**

**Have mercy, Journeying God, have mercy on us. Once again, open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.

**P: The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God.**

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen**

**GLORIA PATRI**

**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**

<b>First Lesson</b>	<b>Judges 4:1-7</b>	<b>p.211</b>
<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</b>	<b>p.1031</b>
<b>Gospel Lesson</b>	<b>Matthew 25:14-30</b>	<b>p.860</b>

**SERMON Denise Ann Todero, CP**

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

**HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" #559**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN "Take My Life and Let It Be" #379**

**BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\***

L: Let us go forth to be God's faithful servants.

**P: We will not hide our gifts but share them with everyone we meet.**

L: Let us go forth to be the followers of Jesus.

**P: We will not hold back our compassion, but will offer it to all.**

L: Let us go forth to be the Spirit's hope and peace.

**P: We will be the grace, the joy, the wonder others need in their lives.**

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

**\*\*@ Rev. Thom Shuman**

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Tomi Nosko**

What you are is God's gift to you.  
What you become is your gift to God.  
Author unknown

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An unused life is an early death.  
Goethe (pronounced ger-te)

\* \* \* \* \*

My share of the work may be limited, but the fact that it is work makes it precious....The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

Helen Keller



**Offering: 11/12**  
**Attendance: 20**  
**Local 801.50**  
**Benev. 55.50**  
**Improv. 47.00**  
**Mem. Fund 50.00**  
**Total 954.00**

**Sunday November 19th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Session Meeting Afterwards**

**Sunday November 26th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**The Flowers and Bulletins Today** are given in honor and memory of family members by Jessie Rager.

**Newsletters and New Church Directories** are available on the back table. Be sure to pick yours up before you leave today.

**We Are Once Again** adopting a family for Christmas. The family includes a mom, a 6 year old girl (who turns 7 on Dec. 30), and a baby boy due on November 10th. There are index cards on a table in the back of the church with items for each noted. Walmart gift cards would also be a tremendous help. In addition, a laundry basket will be placed on the table to be filled with items to help mom around the house. We ask that the items be brought to church by Sunday, December 10th. Thank you in advance for your support.

**We Will Celebrate** the Hanging of the Greens/Christmon Service during Morning Worship on **December 3rd**. Come early to start putting decorations up and enjoy Coffee Hour afterwards.

**The West End Food Pantry** is in need of non-perishable food items and cleaning products to help restock the shelves during the holidays. Items needed for the holidays include canned fruits and vegetables, instant mashed potato and gravy mixes, baking supplies, stuffing mix, etc. Please place all donations in the baskets by the main entrance.

**The Church Christmas Party** will be held on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> after Morning Worship. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share and to sign up on the back bulletin board so we know how many to prepare for. All are welcome.



<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
Pastor Denise & Pete	David Hayduk
Lois Henry	Linda Hayes
Dawna Sheets	Nancy Thomas
Jeanne Lehman	Rich Horner
Marie Whorl	Kim Redvay
Bev Holbay	Dave & Karen Vivis
Wendy Manges	Chuck Schmidt
Mark Todero	Samuel Holbay
Carl Newfield	Loretta Davidson
Bobbie Johnson	All Shut- Ins
Beverly Rager	All in Nursing Homes
Mikey Ferante	All First Responders
Jessie Rager	All Service Men & Women
Jill Sheets	All Healthcare Professionals
Lori Martin	

**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 814-248-8174 or email her at datodero55@gmail.com.  
**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!