

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
December 24th, 2023 4th Sunday of Advent-LOVE

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: O come, Rest of the righteous: wrap us in your shawl of hope, cradling us in your comfort and peace.

P: O come, Servant of salvation unlocking the chains of our sin, sending us to dance in your kingdom's joy.

L: O come, Gospel of graciousness: so we would welcome the outsider and embrace the lonely hearts in our midst.

P: O come, Lover of the lowly: to raise them up until they can look you in the eye, and kiss your soft cheeks in gratitude.

L: O come, Child of the covenant: heir of all those promises made so long ago, and bearer of all the grace flowing from God's heart.

P: O come, Companion of creation: to transform the mess we have made into gardens overrun with goodness and beauty.

L: O come to us, Emmanuel, come and live with us:

P: this day, and forevermore, come!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING –LOVE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1, 2, 3 & 4 #123

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: If we are to welcome the Child into our hearts, we must speak of all the ways we have hardened ourselves against the good news he brings. Let us confess our sins, as we pray together saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

How can this be, Holy One of Advent? We would put the powerful on pedestals, but you send the lowly to remind us of our call to be servants. We would stock our pantries with more and more, but you send friends to our door, collecting for those who hunger and thirst for hope. We would listen

to seasonal sounds of sales, but you send the angels to carol to us of the promises made to all.

Forgive us, Hope of the World. As we watch for your coming, may we see the need around us; as we prepare to celebrate your birth,

May we live with open hearts;

As we long for healing and hope, may we discover the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, sent for us.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: The good news is not just announced to all people, it is indeed, for all people. For the proud, as well as the humble; for the rich, and for the poor; for those who have found faith, and those who long for it.

P: Our hearts rejoice in the promises, and our souls rejoice in the One who has come to us, bringing hope, peace, joy and love into our lives.

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 Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

p.593

New Testament Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

p.1041

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2: 1-14

p.889

MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostle's Creed

HYMN "How Great Our Joy" #144

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
(All Believers are Welcome to the Lord's Table)

HYMN "I Wander as I Wander" #139

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Let us go to be the gift another needs,

**P: sharing God's blessings of love and grace,
running to tell the Story we heard from the shepherds.**

L: Let us go to be the comfort which can swaddle others,

**P: sharing Jesus' compassion with the poor and needy,
welcoming the holiness offered by the most vulnerable we
meet.**

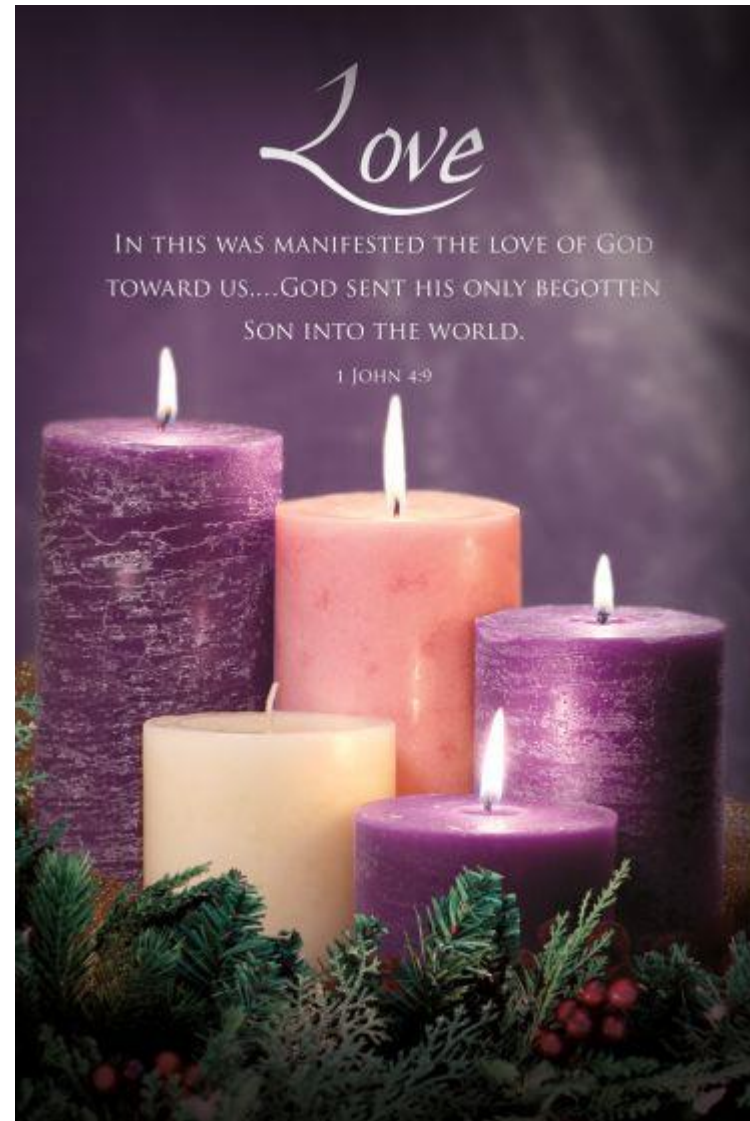
L: Let us go to enkindle the lives around us,

**P: sharing the Spirit's peace with all the broken,
learning the language of hope from the children in our
midst.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace"

****© Rev. Thom Shuman**

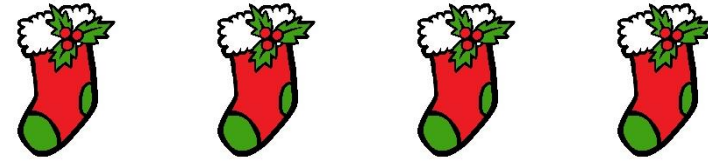
ORGANISTS : John Griffin and Elaine Bilger
COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero
WORSHIP LEADER: Ray Sheets



Offering: 12/17
Attendance: 35
Local 1306.00
Benev. 90.40
Improv. 76.60
Christmas 300.00
Total 1773.00

Sunday December 24th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

Sunday December 31st
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



Join Us Tonight for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Sign Ups For 2024 Lay Leaders and Flower/Bulletin Sponsorships are now being accepted. If you are interested, please see the back bulletin board for more information.

The West End Food Pantry is in need of non-perishable food items and cleaning products to help restock the shelves. Donations can be placed in the baskets by the Blaine St. Entrance. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate.

Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Bill Stull	David Hayduk
Lois Henry	Linda Hayes
Dawna Sheets	Nancy Thomas
Jeanne Lehman	Rich Horner
Marie Whorl	Bob & Judy Varner
Bev Holbay	Dave & Karen Vivis
Lena	Chuck Schmidt
The Todero Family	Joshua Holbay Family
Carl Newfield	Loretta Davidson
Jim Sellers	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Beverly Rager	Paul Faint
Mikey Ferante	All Shut- Ins
Jessie Rager	All in Nursing Homes
Jill Sheets	All First Responders
Lori Martin	All Service Men & Women
Pat Pecora	All Healthcare Professionals

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) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for the latest news, information and much more!

Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory Of

Helen and Harold Brewer
Charles and Betty Molnar
Parents- Dick & Alma Todero
Parents- Louis & Mary Barclay
Harry & Shirley Weaver
Lucinda (Cindy) Griffin
Barbara Miller
Cherie Glessner
My Father- Thomas Pisarczyk
Mother
The Barefoot Family- Glenn, Anna,
Jane, Ross, and Tom Barefoot
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Families
Loved Ones
Loved Ones

In Honor Of

Our Children & Grandchildren
Bobbie Johnson
Families
Ralph Clemenson

Given By

The Molnar Family
The Molnar Family
Pastor Denise & Pete
Pastor Denise & Pete
Pastor Denise & Pete
John Griffin
John Griffin
John Griffin
Christine Lees
Sylvia Pisarczyk
Carl & Linda Thomas

Jessie Rager
The Johnson & Huchel

Linda Orlidge
David Hayduk

Given By

Pastor Denise & Pete
The Johnson & Huchel

Wife Betty Clemenson