

Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP November 3, 2024
Proper 26

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: God's Word called into being the pumpkins, the geese who fly south, the leaves which litter our lawns.

P: In awe, we come into the presence of the God of vivid imagination.

L: God's arms reach down and gather up children, lovingly placing us in grace's lap.

P: In joy, we reach up to the God who loves us completely.

L: God's Spirit fills our lungs, so we can cry out for justice for the broken, the young, the old, the abandoned of our time.

ALL: In service, we join with our God to build hope in our world.

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #92

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: We bring our flawed lives to God, not so much to be made perfect, but to be whole. Let us confess our sins to God, trusting the One who builds joy from our despair.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: Bountiful Love: our self-focus causes us to imagine how poor we are. We are convinced we don't have enough:
enough honor,
enough respect,
enough recognition,
enough to live on.

And so, in our poverty, we cannot trust you, we cannot see the emptiness of others, we cannot help but cling to more than we need.

Forgive us, Bestower of Blessings. Tell us we can be more loving; whisper to us of how we can be more compassionate; sing to us of how we can serve others - all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: The good news is that we are made whole; not by our efforts, not by any work we have done, not by any word of ours.

P: Out of the riches of grace, God pours forgiveness into our lives, giving us all we need in Jesus Christ, so we might live in hope and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen. L: Friends, Believe the Good News

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ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

GLORIA PATRI #623

CHURCH NEWS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a virtual hug or handshake or wave saying "The peace of Christ be with you")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

#625

Prayer of Dedication**

Imagining we are very poor, we think our gifts don't matter, and so give very little. Yet, from the abundance of your love, you challenge us to be as faithful as the woman Jesus speaks about. Make us more generous and gracious givers, even as you take what we offer in these moments, and use them in the work of your kingdom. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament	Ruth 1: 1-18	p.231
New Testament	Hebrews 9:11-14	p.1049
Gospel	Mark 12:28-34	p.881

Message Crystal Dull

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "THE APOSTLES' CREED"

HYMN "In Christ There is No East or West" #285

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

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" #284

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: God sends us out into the world.

P: We will gather up God's children and bring them to the lap of grace.

L: Jesus invites us to watch with him.

P: We will notice those who give from their scarcity, challenging us to offer our abundance to those in need.

L: The Spirit clothes us with grace.

P: We will go forth to welcome all we meet into our hearts.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be With You"

God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again

God be with you till we meet again;
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

** © *Rev. Thom Shuman*

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

WORSHIP LEADER: Brenda Molnar

***Do not save your loving speeches
For your friends till they are dead;
Do not write them on their tombstones,
Speak them rather now instead.***

— *Anna Cummins*



Prayer For Election Day

Dear Lord, so many are feeling anxious, worried and stressed today. We ask you to fill us with your peace and help our minds to be at rest. Help us to remember that no matter who becomes President, you are still on the throne and fully in control. We pray that honesty, fairness and truth will prevail. We ask that you would grant us your wisdom and fill us with your love, that we might overcome all that divides us. We humble ourselves before you as we pray, Lord and we ask you to heal our land and shed your grace and mercy on America once again. We ask these things in Jesus' name.

Amen

Debbie Kay, Hope For The Broken Hearted.com