

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
February 21st, 2021 1st Sunday in Lent

Lenten Candle Lighting Liturgy: Water

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: We come, so God might open our eyes,

**P: that we may discover the wonders surrounding us;
that we may embrace the joy deep within us.**

L: We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,

**P: that we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us;
that we may sing the melodies of hope.**

L: We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,

**P: that we may walk that street named Enduring Love;
that we may wait at the corner called Faithfulness.**

HYMN "Take Time To Be Holy"

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be; Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

God takes broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives, praying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with you, God of Glory. In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments of silence, of learning. In that flood of worries, which can overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have not cut us off from your grace. In the deserts of our desires, we may ignore that feast of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us.

Forgive us and have mercy on us, Gentle Guardian of our souls. In humility, may we offer our lives to others. In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

**P: In every wilderness, on every road;
in every moment, in every life;
in every journey, in every heart,
we receive the daily bread we need - God's hope, God's mercy, God's joy.**

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 with a virtual hug or handshake or wave saying "The peace of Christ be with you")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication**

Not tomorrow, but today we are offered the chance to become a part of your healing work, of bringing peace to a broken world, of feeding the hungry, and welcoming the excluded. Today, not tomorrow, we offer our gifts as well as our lives to this ministry of blessing and hope. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 9:8-17 ⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

New Testament Lesson 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

MESSAGE

Denise Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles’ Creed

HYMN “It Is Well With My Soul”

When peace like a river attendeth my way. When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say. It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well (it is well) -With my soul (with my soul) -It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought. My sin, not in part, but the whole is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more -Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well (it is well)-With my soul (with my soul)-It is well, it is well with my soul

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: Let us go now, as God's people.
P: May God open our eyes to the wonders of creation and the joy we can offer to those we meet.
L: Let us go now, as followers of Jesus.
P: May he open our ears to the cries of the broken, to the words of hope which others offer to us.
L: Let us go now, as those filled with the Spirit.
P: May we follow the Spirit down Enduring Love Street; may we embrace our sisters and brothers at Faithfulness Corner.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God be with you till we meet again;
By His coun-sels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

“God Be With You”

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.

**Those who are able please stand.*
*** Rev. Thom Shuman ©*
Lenten Candle Lighting Liturgy- Rev. Mindi

ORGANISTS: Mr. John Griffin and Mrs. Elaine Bilger
COMMISSIONED RPASTOR: Denise Ann Todero
WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner

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He that is busy is tempted by but one devil; he that is idle, by a legion.....Thomas Fuller
* * * * *

First Sunday in Lent: Water

In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering God's covenant and the sign of the rainbow. God will never again destroy the earth by flood, and water, once a way of destruction, is now a way to new life through baptism.

We light this candle on the first Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness through the sign of his covenant.

Prayer: As the days lengthen and the rivers fill with spring waters, dear God, may we be filled with your love. Let wellsprings of living water spring up in us. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

Lenten Daily Prayer for Reflection Week 1 Revised Common Lectionary Year B

*(The Prayers that follow are written by the RCL specifically for the Lectionary scripture texts:
Genesis 9:8-17 • Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 • Mark 1:9-15)*

February 21, 2021 First Sunday in Lent -God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit.

February 22, 2021 First Monday in Lent -Holy God, creator of light and herald of goodness, at the waters of his baptism you proclaimed Jesus your beloved Son.

February 23, 2021 First Tuesday in Lent -With the baptized of every time and generation, may we say yes to your call to repentance and be led to the life of abundance we experience in your kinship and your love.

February 24, 2021 First Wednesday in Lent- Fill us with your strength to resist the seductions of our foolish desires and the tempter's vain delights, that we may walk in obedience and righteousness, rejoicing in you with an upright heart.

February 25, 2021 First Thursday in Lent -Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God's invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world.

February 26, 2021 First Friday in Lent -God of our salvation, your bow in the clouds proclaims your covenant with every living creature.

February 27, 2021 First Saturday in Lent -Teach us your paths and lead us in your truth, that by your Holy Spirit, we may remember our baptismal vows and be keepers of your trust with earth and its inhabitants.

***Prayers are reproduced from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Offering: 2/14
Attendance: 10
Local 421.00
Benev. 29.30
Improv. 24.70
Total 475.00

Sunday February 21st
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday February 28th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships are available for all Sundays in 2021. The cost to sponsor flowers for a week is \$25 and the cost to sponsor the bulletin for a week is \$10. If you sponsor both the flowers and bulletin for a week the cost is \$30. Sign up on the back bulletin board at the church or by clicking the link on the church website.

Sign ups are currently being accepted for Worship Leaders (Lay Leaders). Worship leaders volunteer for a month and you can share a month with someone. If you would like more information, contact Pastor Denise. You can also sign up on the back bulletin board if you would like to volunteer.

Donations are still being accepted for the West End Food Pantry. Non-perishable food items can be placed in the baskets by the Blaine St. Entrance. The pantry continues to serve our community during these difficult times and all donations are appreciated.

One Great Hour Of Sharing collection fish and information are available on the back table. More information on the program can also be found at www.pcusa.org.



| Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers... | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Don & Marlene Bennett | Maryann Minahan |
| Phyllis Pfuhl | Elizabeth Kern |
| Harry & Lillian Thiel | Ruby Porch |
| Lois Henry | Connie Arcuri |
| Ray & Dawna Sheets | Christine Paratore |
| Marybeth Zahorchak | All Shut- Ins |
| Al Hockenberry | All in Nursing Homes |
| Waylon Rummell | All First Responders |
| Bob & Marie Whorl | All Service Men & Women |
| Bev Holbay | 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 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) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for the latest news, information and much more!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

February 17-April 24, 2020

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Donate by credit card online at presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10

-or-

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



Text SHARING to 56512 to learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Restore streets to live in

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

Share your Bread with the Hungry

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

Loose the Bonds of Injustice



Please give generously.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

