



“Easter is a time to rejoice, be thankful, be assured that all is forgiven, so life extends beyond the soil of the earth.” — Byron Pulsifer

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday Service

April 4th, 2021 10:30 a.m.

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP April 4th, 2021
Easter Sunday

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Christ is risen! **P: He is risen indeed!**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **P: The Lord is risen indeed!**

L: This is the day:

P: when tears are wiped away; shattered hearts are mended; fears are replaced with joy.

L: This is the day the Lord:

P: rolls away the stone of fear; throw's off death's clothes; goes ahead of us into God's future.

L: This is the day the Lord has made:

P: death has no fear for us; sin has lost it's power over us; God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.

L: This is the day - Easter Day! **P: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!**

HYMN OF PRAISE "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" verses 1&2

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!
2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Very early in the morning, God created all that is good and beautiful. Very early in the morning, a mother placed her newborn in a manger. Very early in the morning, the good news was shared with frightened friends, that Jesus was risen and alive in our midst. Let us confess the fears and the amazement we bring this morning.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

On this morning of alleluias, we must confess how human we are, Emptier of tombs. We haven't done any great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance. We have not intentionally hurt any one, nor have we offered healing to the broken. We easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends and neighbors. Bring us new life, Dazzling God. Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us of all the damage we have done, and fill us with the joy of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, who gives us new life, we pray.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: God, our Creator, gives us new life; Christ, our Redeemer, prepares a Table for us; Holy Spirit, our Joy, calls us to service.

P: This is the good news: the tomb is empty, sin is powerless, death is defeated forever.

L: On this very first day, and every day, we walk as God's people, forgiven and made whole.

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

May we not keep our gifts hidden behind the stones rolled across our hearts, but let them burst forth to bring life, to bring hope, to bring the good news of Jesus alive and among us! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

New Testament Lesson 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Gospel Lesson Mark 16:1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

MESSAGE

Denise Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; in him all things in heaven and earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first born of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen

HYMN "Christ Arose"

1. Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose; with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2 Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior, vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

3 Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

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.**

LITANY FOR EASTER

Congregational Response: "Hear us Lord of Glory"

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Prayer

The Communion

All hold the element and at the Pastor's lead take together saying:

The body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: This is the day! Go and share what God has done!

P: We will go to tell the good news to all!

L: This is the day! Go and show that Jesus is alive and among us!

P: We will go to live the good news in our world!

L: This is the day! Go to join the Spirit in rolling away the stones of fear!

P: We will go to be the good news to everyone we meet!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" verses 3&4

3. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia! Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia! Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

****© Rev. Thom Shuman**

ORGANIST: Shawn Miller

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Brenda Molnar



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Because We Are the Church, Together

Life during COVID has been challenging. That feels like an understatement, right? At times, we have all felt disconnected, confined. Missing family, missing friends. Lonely. Worried about the groceries holding out. Unsure of what the future may hold. Imagine feeling all of those things but living in a place or in a situation that was already challenging each and every day without the added pressure of the pandemic. A place where access to food is day to day. Access to vital health care is questionable. Finding clean water is a daily struggle. A place where you are denied justice or plagued with outright violence and oppression.

But one thing remains steadfast and true: We are the Church, together, no matter where we are, and the Church belongs with those struggling for justice, righteousness and peace **for life**.

Because food is life ... gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are helping the people of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota through a partnership with Owe Aku — a grassroots, nonprofit organization that puts people in charge of their own food supply, nutrition, health and well-being by reclaiming ancestral wisdom and teaching Lakota history and culture. The Pine Ridge Reservation is a food desert, located in the county with the lowest per capita income in the nation. The pandemic has dramatically amplified the desperate need for food security.

Because water is life ... gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are helping the families of Capirendita in a remote area of Bolivia face a more hopeful future by building infrastructure to address the communities' critical water shortage. Their goal is to create 500 meters of pipes to transport safe well water to those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts will also support the distribution of plastic containers to collect and save rainwater.

The Special Offerings of the PC(USA), including One Great Hour of Sharing, offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts that place us in service and partnership with those who have least. Our gifts directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger. One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest way that Presbyterians come together in mission and ministry with those whom we see are in need.

Because we are the Church, together ... we give to One Great Hour of Sharing because of where the Church belongs, of **who** the church **is**. Please give generously so that our Church will continue to become, as Isaiah said, “repairers of the breach.” And as we always say: When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray~

God of life, be with us. May we see you in the lives of all we meet, and may we offer ourselves in kindness and kinship to all those in need. Amen.

Offering: 3/28
Local 1125.00
Benev. 78.00
Improv. 66.00
Total 1269.00

Sunday April 4th (Easter Sunday)

Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday April 11th

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Session Meeting After Worship

Session will meet next Sunday after Worship. Please submit all agenda items to Pastor Denise or Linda Orlidge.

We Are Currently Updating the church directory. Please take a minute before you leave today to make sure your information is correct on the copy on the back table. If there are any additions, changes, etc. or if you would like to be added to the church E-Newsletter list please fill out a form and place it in the bulletin.

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.

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.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Don & Marlene Bennett	Elizabeth Kern
Phyllis Pfuhl	Ruby Porch
Harry Thiel	Christine Paratore
Lois Henry	David Hayduk
Ray & Dawna Sheets	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
John Griffin	

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!

EASTER FLOWERS

In Honor Of Our Children & Grandchildren By Pastor Denise & Pete

In Honor Of Grammy Denise By Logan and Landon

In Memory Of Leona Clemenson Given By Gail High

In Memory Of Carol Wilder Given By Gail High

In Memory Of Ralph Clemenson Given By Betty Clemenson & Family

In Memory Of Loved Ones By Jessie Rager

In Memory Of Parents- Louis & Mary Barclay By Pastor Denise & Pete

In Memory Of Parents- Dick & Alma Todero By Pastor Denise & Pete

In Memory Of Aunt & Uncle- Shirley & Harry Weaver By Pastor Denise & Pete

In Memory Of Peggy (Mom, Grandma, Grandma dear) and Dean (Dad, Pa) Manges and sister Tammy Manges By Wendy and Addison Manges

In Memory of Our Parents By Ray & Dawna Sheets

In Memory Of Shirley Varner By Rodney Varner

In Memory Of Loved Ones By Bob & Marie Whorl

In Memory Of Loved Ones By Mike Whorl

In Memory Of Larry Holbay By Beverly Smith-Holbay

In Memory Of Betty Jean Smith By Beverly Smith-Holbay

In Memory Of Leora Holbay By Beverly Smith-Holbay

In Memory Of Loved Ones By Linda Orlidge

In Memory Of Loved Ones By David Hayduk

IN Memory Of Loved Ones By Maryann Minahan