

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

February 21, 2021

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Chorale in A minor”

Cesar Franck

WELCOME

GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION – Stephen Ministry – Kim Bolinger

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Happy are those who worship the Lord,

People: who greatly delight in God’s commandments.

Pastor: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

People: the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Pastor: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;

People: they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

Pastor: For the righteous will never be moved;

People: they will be remembered for ever.

HYMN #15

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright,
chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, who day by day

unfolds such blessings on our way,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION Lay Liturgist – Kim Bolinger

Leader: The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you.
And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and do not do to another what you
would not want done to you. Do not initiate divisions, but rather let us bring
peace to our hearts and to the world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Lay Liturgist – Kim Bolinger

**O God, we confess that as a people, we sometimes injure each other. We
act as if we are right and others are wrong; we treat each other as
expendable rather than priceless; we allow our pettiness to influence our
judgment. Through a variety of “isms”, we push others away and treat
them as “the other” instead of as “one of us.” Forgive us for not acting as
your Son taught us. Amen**

Leader: Let us in silence ask for forgiveness of our own personal sins.
(Silence)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Lay Liturgist – Kim Bolinger

Leader: Hear these words of Christ: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

People: Let us journey onward in the power of God, who forgives us and loves us and speaks afresh to us each day.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison) Lay Liturgist – Kim Bolinger

As we read the familiar words of scripture, shine the light of your Holy Spirit in us that we may read, hear, mark and inwardly digest a word from you this day, O God. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 25:1-10 Lay Liturgist – Kim Bolinger

ANTHEM

"Be Still, My Soul"

Percy Whitlock

Alli Hotz – Soprano, Kayla Stein – Soprano, Laura O'Neil - Alto
Jeff Tabor – Tenor, Leif Pedersen - Bass

NEW TESTAMENT READING Hebrews 12:1-3

SERMON

Dr. Bob Spratt

HYMN #463

"How Firm a Foundation"

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH Lay Liturgist – Kim Bolinger
Leader: Let us remember to support Christ's church.

OFFERTORY *Andante* from "Sonata No. 6" Felix Mendelssohn

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison) Lay Liturgist – Kim Bolinger
**Out of our wealth we give; not only out of the wealth of our financial
possessions but also – and especially – out of the wealth of our love, our
compassion, and our concern. Amen.**

HYMN #432 "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all
and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints became
 in hindrances more sure:
 whose joyful virtues put to shame
 the casual way we wear your name,
 and by our faults obscure
 your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do,
 together or alone,
 in old routines or ventures new,
 may we not cease to look to you:
 the cross you hung upon,
 all you endeavored, done.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Jesus Christus Unser Heiland"

J.S.Bach

Today's postlude is based on the chorale "Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der von uns den Gotteszorn wandt," or "Jesus Christ, our Savior, who turned God's wrath from us. This chorale text was written by Martin Luther a few years after publishing his 95 Theses. Luther wrote this chorale to help reinforce the ideals of the Reformation, that we, as Christians, receive forgiveness for our sins through faith in Jesus, not through the purchase of indulgences. Luther writes in the first stanza that Christ gave himself to us as sacrificial bread 'durch das bitter Leiden sein' or 'through his bitter suffering.' Johann Sebastian Bach's musical setting of this text emphasises this line, through bitter suffering, through the criss-crossing chromatic lines that run up to down and from down to up again.

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	2/21	9 am	Present Word (Zoom)
Sunday	2/21	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom,Facebook Live, Boxcast)
Sunday	2/21	11 am	Annual meeting – (Zoom)
Monday	2/22	7 pm	Life Group #2 (Zoom)
Wednesday	2/24	10:30 am	Staff meeting – (Zoom)
Wednesday	2/24	4 pm	Organ Task Force meeting - (Large Hall)
Wednesday	2/24	7 pm	Lenten Book Study (Zoom)
Thursday	2/25	7 pm	Choir meeting (Zoom)
Thursday	2/25	7 pm	C&GM (Zoom)
Friday	2/26	3 pm	Bible Study (Large Hall)
Saturday	2/27	10 am	Presbyterian Women's Brunch (Zoom)
Sunday	2/28	9 am	Present Word (Zoom)
Sunday	2/28	10 am	Virtual Worship Service – (Zoom,Facebook Live, Boxcast)
Sunday	2/28	11 am	Coffee hour – (Zoom)

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Yarus family, at the passing of Gladys Yarus.

Monroe County-wide Prayer Initiative 2021 for the week of February 21st
– **East Rochester.**

The **Annual Meeting** of Bethany Presbyterian Church has been called for **this morning immediately following the virtual worship service (on Zoom)** for the purpose of hearing reports, receiving the 2021 annual budget and the pastor's terms of call, and for any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

THE DESIGNATED PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (DPNC) has been meeting regularly and is still actively looking for a designated associate pastor/youth leader. Unfortunately, few candidates have applied for the position and those who have were not matches. We met this week with Mary Cowden of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry to discuss other potential sources of candidates. The taskforce is working with the Presbytery network to expand the candidate search and will keep the Bethany congregation abreast of any updates when they become available. Please keep the DPNC and potential candidates in your prayers.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: At times, families or individuals may find they need pastoral support for various reasons ranging from a long-term matter or an emergency. In the event of a pastoral emergency, this can be sought by calling the church office (585) 663-3000 during normal business hours or after hours at (585) 496-4699. In addition, there are several members of the congregation that can be called on for support called Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. To receive support from a Stephen Minister contact Kim Bolinger at (585) 227-2540 or Wendy Watt (585) 415-2351.

REQUEST FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP VIDEO CAMERA OPERATORS:

Are you anxious to get back into the sanctuary? Would you like to learn a new skill? We are looking for volunteers to assist in live streaming our Sunday worship services as camera operators. Please contact Ron Fisher (rfisher97@gmail.com) or Jim Hetzler (jmshetzler@gmail.com) for more information. *COVID-19 protocols are followed for everyone's protection.*

SERENDIPITY LIFE GROUP #3: is one of the Life Studies groups at Bethany. The meetings are relaxed and based around passages from the Serendipity Bible. The discussions are not "heavy" and are relatable to our everyday lives and experiences. It is an enjoyable experience to get to know the other members of our church family. Any questions, please call Jack Bansbach at 227-1265. We are currently meeting via Zoom every other week, Monday's at 3PM, next meeting March 1st.

LIFE GROUP #4: Are you looking for a light, casual Bible study that meets in the afternoon? Join Bev Bennett on Friday, February 26, 2021 at 3:00 in the Large Hall. Due to Covid-19 guidelines and session regulations, there is a maximum of 10 for in-person meetings. Please call Bev Bennett (585)-225-0206 in advance to sign-up.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday evening through March 31, 2021 from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm, Dr. Spratt will lead a seven-week Lenten Devotional on the Stations of the Cross on Zoom. The Zoom account number is 243 911 4010, no password is required.

The exact origin of the devotional use of The Stations of the Cross is not entirely clear, though it is associated with Christian pilgrimages to Jerusalem in the early Christian centuries.

Those who were able to walk along the path Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion were deeply moved by this experience. Yet, since the vast majority of Christians were not able to go to Jerusalem, The Way of the Cross enabled them to engage in a mini-pilgrimage of sorts, so they could focus on the key events of Jesus' last day.

February 24

Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin (Luke 22:66-71)

Peter denies Jesus (Luke 22:54-62)

March 3

Jesus is judged by Pilate (Luke 23:13-25)

Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns (Luke 22:63-65; John 19:2-3)

March 10

Jesus takes up the cross (Mark 15:20)

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross (Luke 23:26)

March 17

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27-31)

Jesus is crucified (Luke 23:33, 47)

March 24

Jesus promises his Kingdom to the good thief (Luke 23:33-34, 39-43)

Jesus on the cross, his mother and his disciple (John 19:25-27)

March 31

Jesus dies on the cross (Luke 23:44-46)

Jesus is placed in the tomb (Luke 23:50-54)

Walk along The Way this Lent.

LIVESTREAMING: If you have a Smart TV or connect to internet channels on your television with Roku, Amazon Fire Stick, Apple TV, or Chromecast you can add the BoxCast channel and view our Sunday Services live on your TV. Past services will also be available on the BoxCast channel, so you can get caught up or re-watch any time.



1. Add the BoxCast Channel to your internet-connected TV
2. Click on [Find an Organization]
3. Type: **bethany presbyterian**
(Two organizations are named "bethany presbyterian", ours is the one with the picture of the sanctuary)
4. Click on our "bethany presbyterian" to select this channel
5. View a recent broadcast or live worship service here
6. Return to the BoxCast main page when finished
7. Bethany Presbyterian Church will be saved to the main page - just click for future viewing

Sunday services will continue to be available on Zoom and Facebook and you can continue to use Facebook chat for sharing your prayer requests during the service.

New Boxcast Link <https://boxcast.tv/view/bethany-sunday-service-391388>

Join Zoom by phone only by calling +1 (646) 558-8656 on your land line or (646) 558-8656 on your cellular phone (there may be a long distance charge) and enter the following Meeting ID# 243 911 4010 when prompted, followed by the # sign.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2439114010>



We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

Bethany Presbyterian Church
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