

**Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
January 7th, 2024 Baptism of the Lord**

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: On that first day, when time began:

P: you gave birth to creation; light danced through the darkness; the waters of hope flowed free and clear.

L: On that first day at the Jordan, when redemption began:

P: you spoke of life for all your children, as your Child stepped into the waters of forgiveness, dancing in hope with his cousin, John.

L: On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

P: you call us to faithfulness, as we open our hearts to you, your voice claiming us as your own.

HYMN "Come Holy Spirit, Dove Divine" #320

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

You and I are now the ones who step forth out of the safe waters of baptism, to bring hope, to share a word of grace, to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives around us. Let us confess how we still struggle to follow in faith wherever Jesus leads us. Join me as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Timeless God, you cast Light into sin's dark places and call us your Beloved. Forgive us: when we still linger in the shadows; when we treat others in hurtful ways; when we speak ill of your friends.

As he knelt in the waters of Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus as your Child, pointing to him as the way to you. Forgive us: when we put ourselves ahead of him; when we think he is no longer needed; when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.

Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your servants in our time. Forgive us: when we fail to welcome the stranger; when we refuse to forgive as we should; when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the little.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Touched by the waters of life, fed at the feast of grace and hope, embraced in the warmth of God's love and hopes - this is good news!

P: Blessed by baptism's tears, called to servanthood by the Beloved, filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are indeed God's people - redeemed, restored, refreshed to serve.

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

Genesis 1:1-5

p.1

New Testament Lesson

Acts 19:1-7

p.966

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:4-11

p.867

MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostle's Creed

HYMN "Spirit of the Living God" (sing twice) #247

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.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

L: May the Creator of heaven and earth be with you.

P: And also with you!

L: People of God, lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the One who gave his Heart to heal us.

L: Let us give thanks to the One who made everything and called it 'good'.

P: How right it is to give our thanks and praise to the One who calls us 'Beloved.'

Into the shadows of silence.....

in every time and place, we sing of your love:

P: Holy, holy, holy! Creator of Light and life. Heaven and earth sing forever of your love and joy. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes to be baptized by water and the Holy Spirit. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessedness is your nature.....

and the hope which is ours in that mystery we call faith:

P: Bathed in your tears, Christ died for us; washed in the resurrection waters, Christ rose for us; bringing the waters of life to us, Christ will come again.

HYMN "God Be With You" #602

BENEDICTION**

L: Go into the world as God's beloved children.

P: We will go to share the gift of grace which flows from God's heart.

L: Go into the world as baptized sisters and brothers of Jesus.

P: We will go to bring the light of hope to all in despair.

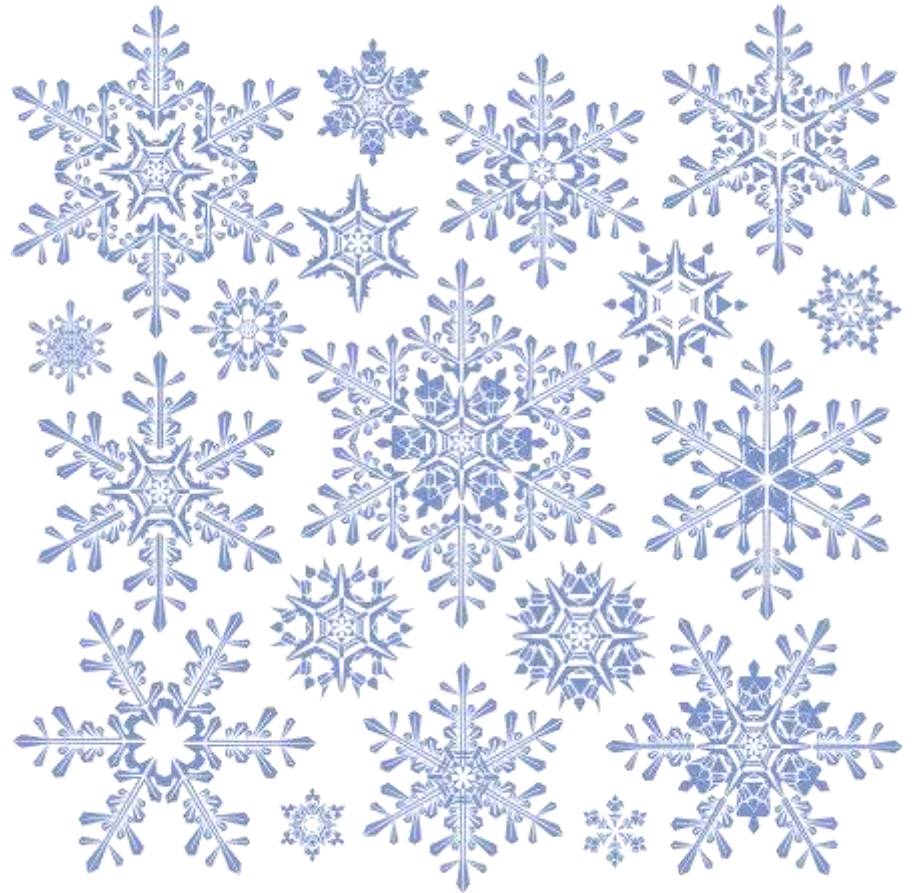
L: Go into the world as those filled with the Holy Spirit.

P: We will go to hear the whispered yearnings for peace and reconciliation.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "May The Lord"
(printed on the inside back cover of the Hymnal)

**** © Rev. Thom Shuman**

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



Offering: 12/31
Attendance: 13
Local 237.50
Benev. 16.50
Improv. 14.00
Christmas 10.00
Total 278.00

Sunday January 7th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday January 14th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



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

The Flowers and Bulletins Today are given by John Griffin in memory of his wife Cindy for Christmas.

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. You can also order flowers/bulletins on the church website.

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.

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!