

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP

September 15th, 2019 24th Sunday In Ordinary Time

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: The foolish say, 'there is no God.'

P: We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice, the presence of the God who loves us.

L: The scoffers of our age ask, 'why do you seek after God?'

P: We come, in this time, because God's grace has spilled over in our lives.

L: The hopeless around us think, 'no one cares about me.'

P: We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus has found us and brought us home.

***HYMN "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #298**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION*

L: Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken (or thought) ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us and each of us! But Christ came to save people just like us, so I invite you to join me as we offer our prayers to God, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

ALL: Although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, Holy God, we must confess we are unskilled workers at doing good. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us.

How foolish, Searching God, how foolish we are! Forgive us, and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

P: Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our sin-parched souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children.

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI**

#579

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**

#592

Prayer of Dedication*

When we could not find our way, you came searching for us. So may our gifts be used to bring hope to those cast aside by the world, peace to those whose lives are troubled, and grace to all who are alone. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament	Jeremiah 4:11-22,22-28	p.651
New Testament	1 Timothy 1: 12-17	p.1034
Gospel	Luke 15: 1-10	p.908

MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero, CP

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed
(Traditional Page 14)**

***HYMN**

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#387

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 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #101**

BENEDICTION/SENDING*

L: We have been found by our God,

P: so now we will go to search for those forgotten by the world.

L: We have been welcomed by Jesus,

P: so now we will go to embrace the ones people look down their noses at.

L: We have been gathered as a community by the Spirit,

P: so now we will go to be a family to the people who long to draw near to hope.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace"**

**Those who are able please stand.*

***©Rev. Thom Shuman*

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Brenda Molnar

In the parable of Jesus, the shepherd saves not merely the soul of the lost sheep, but the whole animal.

Albert Schweitzer, the medical missionary who attended to the body as well as the soul.

