

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA  
MORNING WORSHIP  
December 15, 2024 3rd Sunday of Advent

**CALL TO WORSHIP \*\***

L: Come, let us rejoice this day in the God who is near in everyone around us.

**P: We will sing glad songs of the One who is rebuilding neighborhoods in our midst.**

L: Come, let us rejoice always in Jesus who baptizes us with hope and compassion.

**P: We will join in choruses of praise of the One who brings justice to the forgotten in our midst.**

L: Come, let us rejoice again and again in the Spirit who offers us new life in every moment.

**P: We will sing full throttle of the One who fills us with gifts to share with everyone in our midst.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – Joy (Tomi Nosko and Logan and Landon Heptner)**

**\*Response:** *Sung to the tune of Away In A Manger*

**A candle is burning, a candle of joy.**

**A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.**

**Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

**HYMN "Hark The Herald Angels Sing #133**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

Why should we fear? Whatever we have said or done; whoever we have neglected or whatever we refused to do, surely God has washed away with the waters of life, flowing into that crystal sea of forgiveness. Let us bring our lives to the One who comes to give us hope and life, in this and in every season, as we pray together, saying

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\***

**We admit, God of Advent, that it is easier to trust a**

politician's glib words than yours which were spoken so long ago. We know how afraid we are of tomorrow, because of what we do today, ignoring what you brought about so long ago. We, who have been given so much from your heart, find it hard to share even a smidgen from our abundance.

**Forgive us, God our hope, and have mercy on us. Lift us to our feet; draw us close into your loving embrace; drench us the buckets of grace drawn from the deep wells of life, so we will have the courage to declare you as our God, as we follow Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with the Holy Spirit.**

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: As plain as the heart in our chests, the good news is this: God is our hope. God is our life. God is our future.

**P: We will sing aloud, our voices at full throttle. We are forgiven, we are saved!**

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**

**#625**

**\*Prayer of Dedication\*\***

We will not be afraid, Loving God, to offer our hopes, our hearts, our treasures to you, but do so willingly, trusting that you will use them to bring life, joy, grace, and peace to all around us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 12:2-6	p.596
New Testament Lesson	Philippians 4:4-7	p.1024
Gospel Lesson	Luke 3:7-18	p.891

## A Poem of Joy Psalms 33

MESSAGE Ray Sheets

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

HYMN "Joy To The World" #125

## 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 "Angels We Have Heard on High" #132

## \*BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\*

L: Setting aside our fears and worries, let us go.

**P: We will go as God's people on this day, to remind everyone that God is as close to them as the beats of their hearts.**

L: Setting aside our prejudices and assumptions, let us go.

**P: We will go as Jesus' followers this day, to gather up the forgotten and bring them home, to embrace the lonely as sisters and brothers.**

L: Setting aside our expectations and demands, let us go.

**P: We will go as those graced by the Spirit, to share with others the waters from grace's deep wells, to offer that peace which never comes to an end.**

## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

\* "O Come All Ye Faithful" #145

*\*Those who are able please stand.*

*\*\* © Rev. Thom Shuman*

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Tomi Nosko**



**Offering: 12/8**  
**Attendance: 17**  
**Local 244.00**  
**Benev. 16.70**  
**Improv. 14.30**  
**Food Pantry 50.00**  
**Total 325.00**

**Sunday December 15th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Church Christmas Party**

**Sunday December 22nd**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



**The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be held on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. Join us as we celebrate with songs and scriptures.

**Changes and Updates** for the church directory are due by Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>. Please use the form provided in your newsletter or one of the ones in the back of the sanctuary and place them in the offering plate.

**The West End Food Pantry** is still in need of staples to keep their shelves stocked. Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the bins by the main entrance. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

**Sign Ups** for 2025 Lay Leaders are now being accepted. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

**Orders** are now being taken for 2025 Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships. Order forms and more information can be found on the back bulletin board and can be placed in the offering plate or given to Ed Sheets.

<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
Dawna Sheets	Nancy Thomas
Jeanne Lehman	Dave & Karen Vivis
Marie Whorl	Joshua Holbay Family
Bev Holbay	Dominic Serratore
Mark Todero	Loretta Davidson
Carl Newfield	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Beverly Rager	Rodney Gramling
Mikey Ferante	Randy Maurer
Jill Sheets	Edward Spinda
Frank Cassat	Jim & Iva Jean
JR Bilger	Dan Saylor
Linda Hayes	Taylor Short
Missy DiPlacido	All Shut- Ins
Jim Kuntz	All in Nursing Homes
Krista Molnar	All First Responders
Bobbie Johnson	All Service Men & Women
Bruce Cadenhead	All Healthcare Professionals

**To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names** in the bulletin please email [bethanyjtown@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanyjtown@hotmail.com).

**Visit Our Website** ([www.bethanyjohnstown.com](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for- the latest news, information and much more!