

Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
November 5th, 2023 31st Sunday In Ordinary Time

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,

P: God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.

L: When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,

P: Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.

L: When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:

P: the Spirit invites us to sit at the Table of grace.

HYMN "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" #82

*** CALL TO RECONCILIATION****

We know how easy it is to do exactly the opposite of what we learn from our Teacher, Jesus. So, let us draw near to our God, for in confessing our failures, we will discover the grace and mercy God has in store for us. Join me as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

When we come to the edge of your holiness, we know how we have not lived as your children. We dam up for ourselves your rivers of love, while the lives around us turn into deserts of loneliness. All too quickly, we place our feet on the quicksand of fear, not wanting to step across to your faith. We tie up our angers and worries and burden our families and friends with them.

Forgive us, by your patient grace, give us more time to practice our calling to discipleship, so we might learn all we need to live as sisters and brothers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: This is the good news: God hears you, God forgives you, God is with you as you journey into that land called Promise.

P: Let the redeemed of God say: this is indeed great news!

Accepting God's word of joy and grace, we will live as God's children in all the days to come. Amen.

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	Joshua 3:7-17	p.187
New Testament	1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13	p.1029
Gospel	Matthew 23:1-12	p.857

MESSAGE Denise Ann Todero, CRE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles Creed

***HYMN "I Need Thee Every Hour" #428**

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 "Make Me a Blessing" #452

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Go forth as God's people into the world.

P: We will go to serve those who stand at the edges of life.

L: Go forth as sisters and brothers of Jesus.

P: We will go to teach the world the ways of peace and hope.

L: Go forth as those filled with the Spirit.

P: We will go to share our lives with everyone we meet.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace"

****Rev. Thom Shuman ©**

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER:

*Bread for myself is a material question;
bread for my neighbor is a spiritual question.*

.....Jacques Maritain

*That man who lives for self alone
Lives for the meanest mortal known.*

.....Joaquin Miller

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*The things that will destroy America
are prosperity at any price,
peace at any price,
safety first instead of duty first,
and love of soft living
and the get-rich-quick theory of life.*

.....Theodore Roosevelt

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*We could probably prove that throughout history
those Christians who have accomplished the most practical benefit
in this world are those who have believed most fervently in the next.*

.....Gordon W. Allport, psychologist

