

**Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA  
MORNING WORSHIP December 31st, 2023  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: Praise the One who spoke and made everything!

**P: Let the rivers ripple with joy; let the mountains stamp their feet.**

L: Praise the One who adopts all of us as children!

**P: Let old folks tell familiar stories; let little children swim with dolphins.**

L: Praise God!

**P: We will sing of God's glory; we will shout our joy to the heavens.**

**HYMN "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" #131**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

It is easy to become slaves to our passion; it is harder to live as God's children. Let us confess the easy choices we have made, so God can strengthen us to be faithful sisters and brothers of Christ.

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

**Abba God: we know that given the chance, we rarely praise others. We are guided more by meanness than by your gentleness. And we are seldom wise enough to listen to your voice, preferring instead the sweet, sweet songs of sin.**

**Forgive us, Heart of Heaven. Touch those inner places of hope and joy that they might become the gifts we can offer to those around us, as we seek to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: Hear the good news. The time is now; the place is here: God has redeemed us from sin; God has claimed us as the children of Hope.

**P: Praise God, all people, for life is given to us anew; eternity is our home.**

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**

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

<b>Old Testament Lesson</b>	<b>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</b>	<b>p.641</b>
<b>New Testament Lesson</b>	<b>Galatians 4:4-7</b>	<b>p.1014</b>
<b>Gospel Lesson</b>	<b>Luke 2:22-40</b>	<b>p.889</b>

**MESSAGE**

**Rev. Deb Groeger**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**The Apostle's Creed**

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

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" #138**

**BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\***

L: The God of creation goes with you now.

**P: As we go to care for all that has been given to us.**

L: The Child of Bethlehem goes with you now.

**P: As we seek to serve with humility and hope.**

L: The Spirit of Abba goes with you.

**P: As we would show others how to find the kingdom.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Joy to the World" 1<sup>st</sup> verse**

**#125**

**\*\* © Rev. Thom Shuman**

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Douglas Younker**

The person who looks for quick results in the seed planting of well-doing will be disappointed. If I want potatoes for dinner tomorrow, it will do me little good to plant them in my garden tonight. There are long stretches of darkness and invisibility and silence that separate planting and reaping. During the stretches of waiting, there is cultivating and weeding and nurturing and planting other seeds.

**-- Eugene Peterson**

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Too many people are waiting for God to do things *for* them rather than *with* them.

**-- Ralph W. Sockman**

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Relying on God has to begin all over again, everyday, as if nothing had yet been done.

**-- C. S. Lewis**



**Offering: 12/24**  
**Attendance: 20/25**  
**Plate 145.00**  
**Local 714.00**  
**Benev. 49.15**  
**Improv. 41.85**  
**Christmas 762.00**  
**Total 1712.00**

**Sunday December 31st**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
  
**Sunday January 7th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



**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.

**Thank You** to everyone who helped with the family we adopted for Christmas. The caring and generosity shown by our congregation each year is appreciated.

**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.

<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
Bill Stull	David Hayduk
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	Loretta Davidson
Jim Sellers	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Beverly Rager	Denese Rager
Mikey Ferante	All Shut- Ins
The Faint Family	All in Nursing Homes
Jill Sheets	All First Responders
Lori Martin	All Service Men & Women
Pat Pecora	All Healthcare Professionals

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