

MORNING WORSHIP

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
October 1, 2023 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Communion Sunday

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Becoming a baby,

P: Christ transformed all of us into his sisters and brothers.

L: Telling us stories we had forgotten,

P: God helps us to walk the paths of discipleship.

L: Becoming foolish in the world's eyes.

P: The Spirit teaches us all we need to find our way into the kingdom.

HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" VS 3 #323

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: All too often, we tell God we will do better, and be better, and then just go on living the same way we always have. Let this be the moment, when we tell our God of our failures and faithlessness, so we can go forth to work in that kingdom of grace and hope. Join me as we pray,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you. We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid in judgment.

Forgive us, God who came down to us. Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: This is the good news: in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished. You are forgiven, you are made new.

P: We will complete God's joy, by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope, with everyone we meet.

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**

May the simple gifts we offer this day become a fountain of blessings for others, bringing them hope, healing, joy, and peace. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson Exodus 17:1-7 p.60

Second Lesson Philippians 2:1-13 p.1023

Gospel Lesson Matthew 21:23-32 p.855

MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" VS 1&2 #323

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and the PASTORAL PRAYER

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

(All believers are welcome to celebrate Holy Communion. Please refer to the insert in your bulletin.)

HYMN "We Come to This Table"

(Sung to the tune of - We Gather Together - # 561 in your Hymnal)

We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.
We hear Jesus' welcome-- inviting, forgiving;
We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.

We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.
The bread and the cup that we share here with others
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.

We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?"
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.
Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.

We rise from this table with new dedication
To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,
To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;
We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.

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BENEDICTION**

L: Go forth to share God's love with all.

P: We will become a river of love through the world.

L: Go forth to share Christ's grace.

P: We will be a fountain flowing in the barren places.

L: Go forth to share the community of the Spirit.

P: We will become a pool of peace where all may be refreshed.

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: Brenda Molnar



INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Leader: According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

People: Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

Leader: This is the Lord's table.

People: Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and loving God, we thank you that in your love, you created for us a wonderful world. We praise you, joining our voices with the faithful of every time and place, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

O God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ.... and reconciling love.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION

(Please hold the element until all are served, at the Pastor's lead, all will partake together saying:)

The body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Offering: 09/24
Attendance: 12
Local 951.30
Benev. 65.90
Improv. 55.80
Total 1073.00

Sunday October 1st
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Session Meeting Afterwards

Sunday October 8th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Session will meet today after Morning Worship.

Mark Your Calendars! Pine Springs Camp will hold their annual Friends Dinner on Sunday October 29th from 3:30-6:30 p.m. inside the Refuge Dining Hall at the Camp. Call the camp at (814) 629-9834 or visit www.pinesprings.org for more information.

Weekly Flower and Bulletins for 2023 are still available for most weeks. The cost is \$25 per week for flowers and \$10 per week for bulletins. If you purchase flowers and bulletins for the same week the cost is \$30. To reserve a week, sign up on- the back bulletin board or fill out the form on the church website.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Pastor Denise & Pete	David Hayduk
Lois Henry	Linda Hayes
Dawna Sheets	Nancy Thomas
Buzz & Jeanne Lehman	Rich Horner
Marie Whorl	Kim Redvay
Bev Holbay	Dave & Karen Vivis
Wendy Manges	Chuck Schmidt
Mark Todero	Linda Orledge
Carl Newfield	Samuel Holbay
Bobbie Johnson	All Shut- Ins
Beverly Rager	All in Nursing Homes
Mikey Ferante	All First Responders
Sheri Pavic	All Service Men & Women
Jessie Rager	All Healthcare Professionals
Jill Sheets	

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!