

-Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
Morning Worship March 26, 2023 5th Sunday in Lent
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP-

I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life

CALL TO WORSHIP ** (Litany for Lent)

L: In the buds on the trees eager to burst;
in the flowers poking their heads out of the dirt;
in the children chalking spring on the sidewalks:

P: we see how you love us, God of steadfast love.

L: In the tears of a worried father over his son's illness;
in the weariness of a mother facing a long shift at work;
in the woman who anoints her grandbaby with talcum powder:

P: we see how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.

L: In the touch of a wife on her husband's papery skin;
in the birds which rush into the sky before spiraling down;
in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted:

P: we see how you love us, Breath of our souls.

Creator of life:

L: bring us light, we pray. **P: Mourner of the dead:**

L: take away our grief, we pray. **P: Refresher of dry lives:**

L: bind us to God forever

HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" #97

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: If it is true that God has recorded our failings, we hope it will never be published. But in truth, if the book was opened, every page would be blank, for God forgives us of everything we have done, or failed to do. So, let us wait for God's mercy and grace, as we come with our prayers for forgiveness, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: We are set free by your saving grace, Generous God, yet we must confess how we are still bound by our pride and arrogance. We seem unable to throw off the grave clothes of our habitual sin, finding them too comfortable to wear. We cling to our fears, for they are so familiar and make such good companions.

Yet, there in every corner of our lives, in every shadow we fear, into the cold embrace of death itself, you come, Steadfast Love. You break the bonds of sin and terror, giving us new strength and hope for the journey,

and calling us to new life through the love and sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades, that life which never ends.

P: We wait for God, and God does not fail us. God's hope, God's love, and God's grace are forever.

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

For all left by the side of society, for all whose strength has vanished, for all whose bones are brittle with despair, may our gifts bring hope and healing, peace and plenty, in your name and in your love. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Ezekiel 37:1-14 p.747

New Testament Romans 8:6-11 p.982

Gospel John 11:1-45 p.934

Message

Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostle's Creed

HYMN "Standing on the Promises" #271

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 "Trust and Obey"

#349

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Now go forth with God's hope!

P: We have put flesh on our faith and will go to serve others.

L: Now go forth to fill others with Christ's Light!

P: We will go to call others to new life, wiping away their tears.

L: Now go forth with the steadfast love of the Spirit!

P: We will go to share that hope for which all people long.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Blest Be The Tie That Binds" 1st verse #286

**© Rev. Thom Shuman

ORGANISTS: Mr. John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Brenda Molnar

I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life (*Fifth Sunday in Lent*)

Never before in our history has there been such a widespread interest in the occult, cultic religious sects, witchcraft, transcendental meditation, ESP, and the like. In our fast-paced, anxiety-ridden society, people are searching hungrily for peace of mind. The drug culture has risen to overwhelming heights and alcoholism has reached alarming proportions especially among young people.

It has been said that there is a God-shaped void in each of us. Nothing can fill that longing except a personal relationship with God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, the life." It is through Christ that we come to know God. Through him we come to grips with and find communion and fellowship with God.

As we come to know God better through Christ, we grow closer to God. Our knowledge of God must be experiential, not solely intellectual, and it is for this purpose that Jesus came into the world.

Jesus is the way— the true way to God and to meaningful and everlasting life. He points the way to the nature of God and what God expects of God's people.

Jesus is the truth. He is a true image of the true God, not the twisted understanding we sometimes have of God.

Jesus is the life. Through him we can live triumphantly, unfettered by the cares, temptations, and disappointments that are so integral a part of our human existence. The frustrations will come. Following Christ does not exempt us from them. But, they need not cripple us or bind us so that our lives are meaningless. Jesus truly is the way, the truth, the life.

I am
the way,
the truth, the life
John 14.6



Offering: 03/19
Attendance: 21
Local 354.65
Benev. 24.55
Improv. 24.80
Total 400.00

Sunday March 26th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday April 2nd
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday

Happy Birthday to Marie Whorl from your sons. The flowers and bulletins today are given in celebration of Marie's birthday.

One Great Hour Of Sharing collection fish and envelopes are available on the back table. Contributions can be placed in the offering plate or mailed back to the church.

Join Us April 9th as we celebrate Easter Sunday. The service begins at 10:30 a.m. with a light breakfast being served prior to the service. All are welcome.

Sign Ups for 2023 Lay Leaders are still being accepted. You can now sign up for a full month or for a single week. If you would like to help out, sign up on the back bulletin board. Contact Pastor Denise with any questions.

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	David Hayduk
Lois Henry	Susie Keefer
Ray & Dawna Sheets	Chloe Kern
Buzz & Jeanne Lehman	Tyler & Julie Kalp
Marie Whorl	Linda Hayes
Bev Holbay	David Varner
Wendy Manges	Loretta Davidson
Mark Todero	Nancy Thomas
Shirley Gavazoni	Elaine Bilger
Linda & Richard Oaks	Randy Maurer
Bill Faust	All Shut- Ins
Beverly Rager	All in Nursing Homes
Mikey Ferante	All First Responders
Shawna Kinsey	All Service Men & Women
Jim Kuntz	All Healthcare Professionals
Joel Marple	

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!