



**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**December 8th, 2019 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: In this season of bumper to bumper stress,  
with life more crowded than the stores,

**P: God welcomes us to a feast of faithfulness,  
where we may sit in peace and gentleness.**

L: In these times of rancorous rants and snide remarks,  
with people too busy to offer words of compassion,

**P: Jesus whispers of hope for broken hearts,  
sings carols of justice for all the outsiders.**

L: In these days of more and more time spent with devices,  
and fewer moments with those who could touch us with joy,

**P: the Spirit embraces us with peace that comforts,  
loves us with a passion beyond 140 characters.**

**\*INTROIT**

**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses #1 & 2 #123**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING –PEACE**

**(Brenda and Luke Molnar)**

**\*Response -(Sung to the tune of Away In A Manger)**

**A Candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

**\*CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: All too often, we believe God's vision of justice and peace is only for us,  
not those around us. We are sure others need to be cleansed and  
forgiven, but not us. Let us seek to live as if, indeed, the kingdom is  
coming near, as we offer our prayers to the One who calls us to Advent  
living, as we pray together, saying,

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL: Goodness Incarnate, we must confess that we have not lived as your children. We muddy the clear waters of baptism with the detritus of walking over those we claim we love. We sit in our lonely lives feasting on bitterness, when we could be feasting with those we are told not to trust. We wait for all our desires to be taken care of by you, while you hope we would fill the lives of others with your grace and hope.**

**Forgive us, God of this holy season, and help us to be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, embrace their grief, and love them as you did when you came to us so long ago, as well as in these moments, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

L: Here is the good news: speak with the whispers of hope until it silences despair; sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus; shower others with wonder and delight and join in God's dance of grace.

**P: So, let us welcome others with open arms, just as we have been embraced in God's love and laughter.**

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**

**First Lesson            Isaiah 11:1-10                            p.595**

**Second Lesson Romans 15:4-13                            p.988**

**Gospel Lesson Matthew 3:1-12                            p.836**

**MESSAGE                            Denise Ann Todero, CP**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH                            The Apostles' Creed**

**HYMN                            "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful" #119**

## **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 LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN                            "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #92**

## **\*BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\***

**L: As God has welcomed us in these moments,**

**P: let us go to embrace each person we meet.**

**L: As Jesus has been our servant of hope and grace,**

**P: let us go to serve the most vulnerable around us.**

**L: As the Spirit of hope has filled us,**

**P: let us go to empty ourselves of joy and peace for all.**

## **\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 3 & 4 #123**

## **POSTLUDE**

***\*Those who are able please stand.***

***\*\* © Rev. Thom Shuman***

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner**

**Offering: 12/01**  
**Attendance: 12**  
**Local      332.45**  
**Benev.      23.05**  
**Improv. 19.50**  
**Total      375.00**

**Sunday December 8th**  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday In Advent**

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

**The Flowers & Bulletins** are given in memory of Wallace Orlidge by Linda Orlidge.

**The Church Christmas Party** will be held next Sunday (December 15<sup>th</sup>), immediately following Morning Worship. Both the service and the party will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish and to sign up on the back bulletin board, so we know how many to prepare for.

**Join Us** on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend, so feel free to invite your friends, family, and neighbors.

**Items For The Newsletter** are due by December 29th. This edition will cover January-March 2020. Give all submissions to Ed Sheets.

**2020 Lay Leader** sign ups are now being accepted. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the back bulletin board. Take a month for yourself or share with someone else. See Pastor Denise for more information.

**Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships** are now available for 2020. The cost of flowers is tentatively set for \$24 per week and the cost to sponsor the bulletin for a week is \$10 (\$6 if sponsoring the flowers in the same week. If you are interested, please sign up on the back bulletin board.



<b>Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...</b>	
Don Bennett	The Holbay Family
Michael Robert Rose III	Elizabeth Kern
Phyllis Pfuhl	Rachael Wilks
Harry & Lillian Thiel	Logan Weaver
Lois Henry	Richard Kibsey
Andy Serafin	Gwen Hartnett
Elaine Bilger	Beth Runkle
Kathy & Robert Wilks	Marie Hudson
Rev. Dr. Brenda & Don Barnes	Linda Hayes
Pastor John Hickman	Leslie Clemenson
John Manges	All Shut- Ins
Denny Hammers	All in Nursing Homes
Rodney Varner	All First Responders
Dawna Sheets	All Service Men & Women

**To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names** in the bulletin contact Ed Sheets at 539-3495 or email at esheets91@hotmail.com or contact Pastor Denise at 479-2382 or email her at datodero@atlanticbb.net.

**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!

## **Christmas Poinsettia Order Form**

Orders are now being accepted for poinsettias. The cost is \$8 each and orders are due by December 8th. Orders can be given to Ray Sheets, placed in the offering plate, or mailed back to the church.

NAME:

# of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8 each = \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

OTHER:

GIVEN BY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Pick Up on December 22nd

\_\_\_\_\_ Pick Up on Christmas Eve

\_\_\_\_\_ Pick Up on December 29th