

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 23, 2018

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Es ist ein Ros’entsprungen”
(Lo How A Rose E’er Blooming)

Johannes Brahms

WELCOME

GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Villa of Hope, Deb Petersen

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Pastor: Mary, pregnant and unmarried declares the greatness of God and recognizes the unique calling she has received. As with so many other mothers before and after her, she does not know what joys or sorrows may follow the birth; but she is ready to rejoice in God, her Savior.

People: It is for Mary that we light this fourth candle. Mary who believed that God was about to fulfill the promise made to Abraham so long ago.

[Lighting of the first four candles of the Advent wreath.]

*HYMN #143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you. And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and only treat others the way you wish to be treated. Do not initiate divisions, but rather let us bring peace to our hearts and to the world.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Forgive us, O Lord, if too easily we have accepted the secular interpretation of Christmas. If we have made ourselves so busy that we have forgotten how to care. If we have pictured Jesus only as an infant without acknowledging Him as the Lord of life. Grant us pardon, Lord, and restore us to right thinking and living. Amen.

Leader: Let us in silence confess our own personal sins. (Silence)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: My friends in Christ, hear and believe the good news of the gospel,

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you. **People: And also with you!**

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS [Children may leave for “Roots and Wings” activities in the Large Hall, and return to their pews after the sermon.]

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-25

page 783 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Come Lord Jesus”
Bethany Choir

Martin How

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 1:6-14

page 777 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Bob Spratt

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN #147**

“The First Nowell” (verses 1-4)

THE FIRST NOWELL

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Congregational Response: “Lord, we praise you.” or “Lord, hear our prayer”

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS

(As the offering is received, please sign, pass, and return the pew pads. Please provide your full name, address, phone number, and check if you are a visitor or a member.)

OFFERTORY

“Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland BWV 599”
(Come Now, Savior of the Nations)

J.S. Bach

***HYMN #606**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Remembering God’s incarnation on our behalf, we present these tithes and offerings as expressions of our thanks to God and of our concern for others. Amen.

***HYMN #113**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“Noél X”

Louis-Claude Daquin

CHILDCARE is available from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM in the Church Nursery located across from the Church Library for newborns through Pre-K.

THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:

Deacons: Linda Lamb, Mark Buri, Meghan Buri, Wayne Crawford, Gail Kuhner, Marlene McMaster, Skip Sywulski

Lay Liturgist: Greg Ludek

Greeter: Richard Britton

Acolytes: K.J. Honan, Brandon Honan

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Pam Auld, David Ballerstein, Pete Posson, Frank Wood.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: This will be collected today. Half of our donations will be sent to PCUSA to support current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need and for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian related schools and colleges. The other half will go to our neighbor the Villa of Hope. Your donations provide Villa of Hope the support they need to adapt swiftly to the changing needs of youth and families and the leadership role the Villa plays in our community.

EVERYDAY SPIRIT: There will not be class on December 30. Class will resume on Sunday, January 6. Please join us.

DONATION OF THE MONTH: Pat Connor shared how neighborhood libraries support much more than books. They meet the needs of the people in and around the library in many different ways. Handmade or purchased hats, mittens, gloves will help care for the patrons at Lyell Avenue Library. While you are out shopping for Christmas, pick up a hat and mittens or if you are feeling crafty knit some.

SHIPMATES: On January 12, 2019 at 11:30 am in the Large Hall at Bethany you will have an opportunity to meet the local author of "The Barns of Greece, NY," a recently published book now available at the Greece Historical Society museum by Jane Grant. This wonderful 64 page full-color book, signed by Jane, will be available for purchase at our meeting. A light luncheon will be served for only \$5 per person. Please contact Karen Henry at 663-8075 to make your reservation. Please let us know if you need a ride or you can share a ride. Send check to Bob Watt at 292 Malden Street, Rochester, NY 14615. (check payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church). Reservation deadline is Friday, January 4, 2019.

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	12/23	9 am	Everyday Spirit (Library)
Sunday	12/23	9 am	Serendipity (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/23	9:15 am	Bethany Choir (Music Room)
Sunday	12/23	10 am	Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings (Sanctuary)
Sunday	12/23	11:15 am	The Present Word (Small Hall)
Monday	12/24	7 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service
Monday	12/24	10 pm	Bethany Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Monday	12/24	11 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service
Tuesday	12/25		Christmas Day - Church Office closed
Wednesday	12/26		Church office open 9am-1pm
Thursday	12/27		Church office open 9am-1pm
Friday	12/28		Church office open 9am-1pm

Bethany Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616
www.bethanyrochester.org
663-3000

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM