



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Denise A. Todero, CRE

www.bethanyjohnstown.com

Bethany Presbyterian Church
MORNING WORSHIP
July 22nd, 2018 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
******Presbyterian Hymnal******

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers,

P: we gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.

L: Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims almost at the end of the journey,

P: each of us is seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.

L: Builders of bridges in fractured communities, those who stand on either side of walls of fear,

P: the Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!

***HYMN "The Church's One Foundation"**

#442

CALL TO RECONCILIATION*

L: Do we really want God to dwell within us, or are we only willing to 'rent out' space for a brief visit? Our actions, our words, our silence, our fears all show the presence, or absence, of God in our lives. Let us empty ourselves of all which burdens us, and welcome the One who lives with us forever. Please join me as we pray,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

ALL: Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger, the alien, in our midst.

Forgive us, Faithful Heart. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray

this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

P: God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole.

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI**

#579

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**

#592

Prayer of Dedication *

Because you have compassion on us, Steadfast Love, you do not hold anything back, but fill us with your good gifts. May we share from our abundance, as well as from our need, so our offerings might be an enduring witness to your hope, your peace, and your healing for all. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-14a p.269

Second Reading Ephesians 2:11-22 p.1018

Gospel Reading Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 p.873

Message Denise Ann Todero, CRE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostle's Creed**

***HYMN "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #387**

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 #To God Be the Glory" #485**

BENEDICTION/SENDING*

L: Now go, to greet stranger and dear friend equally.

P: We will share God's steadfast love as we seek to live in faithfulness.

L: Now go, to share Christ's compassion with everyone.

P: We will tear down dividing walls and build bridges of hope.

L: Now go, to live as one as the Spirit gathers you with others.

P: We will build communities that welcome all, especially the outsiders.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "May The Lord" #596**

**Those who are able please stand.*

*** © Rev. Thom Shuman*

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Ray Sheets

I have often complained that my work was constantly interrupted
until I discovered that my interruptions are my work.

.....Henri Nouwen

It seems curious enough that in modern, neurotic society,
man's energies are consumed in making a living,
and rarely in living itself.

.....Lin Yutang