

**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent - PEACE**

**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 –Ray Sheets - PEACE**

**A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,**

**A candle of peace in December's dark night.**

**While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,**

**Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

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

**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      Tara Ometz

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      The Apostles' Creed

HYMN      "Joy to the World"      #125

**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

**\*\* © Rev. Thom Shuman**

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**



**Offering: 11/30**  
**Attendance: 15**  
**Local 865.00**  
**Benev. 59.30**  
**Improv. 50.70**  
**Total 975.00**

**Sunday December 7th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday December 14th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Church Christmas Party**

**Orders** for Christmas Poinsettias are due today. The cost is \$10 each. Please use the order form found in your bulletin. You can also place an order on the church website.

**Come Join In Food, Fun, and Fellowship!** The annual Church Christmas Party will be held next Sunday (December 14<sup>th</sup>) after Worship. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share. Feel free to bring your family and friends, but we ask that you sign up on the back bulletin board before you leave today so we know how many to prepare for.

**The Festival Of The Nativity** will conclude tonight from 6-9 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Downtown Johnstown. All are invited to attend.

**Join Us** on Christmas Eve as we celebrate with our Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend as we celebrate the season.

**The West End Food Pantry** is in need of non-perishable food items to keep their shelves full. Donations can be placed in the boxes by the Blaine St. entrance. Monetary Donations can be placed in the offering plate. The pantry will likely see increased need over the coming weeks, so all donations are appreciated.

**Ed Sheets** is collecting small shipping boxes. If you have any you no longer need, you can place them on the table in the back of the chapel. Thanks in advance for your assistance.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Dawna Sheets	Bobbie Johnson
Jeanne Lehman	Barry Ross
Marie Whorl	Dave & Karen Vivis
Bev Holbay	Joshua Holbay Family
Mark Todero	Dominic Serratore
Carl Newfield	Jim Kuntz
Beverly Rager	Jimmy Stormant
Frank Cassat	Bruce Torrence
Nancy Kahl	All Shut- Ins
Linda Hayes	All in Nursing Homes
Jessie Rager	All First Responders
Bill & Patty Gramling	All Service Men & Women
Mike & Charlotte Jean	All Healthcare Professionals

**To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names** in the bulletin please email bethanyjtown@hotmail.com.

**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!

**Sign Ups** for 2025 Lay Leaders are still being accepted. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

**Orders** are still being taken for 2025 Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships. Order forms and more information can be found on the back bulletin board and can be placed in the offering plate. Orders can also be placed on the church website.

## **Military Christmas Care Packages**

We are collecting items to send to our local service men and women who were recently deployed to the southern boarder. The following are some of the items we are collecting. If you are interested in donating, you can bring items to the church. Thank you in advance for your support!

- Small Hand Sanitizers
- Individual Wet Wipes
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Powdered Gatorade and Propel Packets
- Bath Poofs
- Small Shampoo
- Small Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Disposable Rubber Gloves
- Chapstick
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Disposable Razors
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Hand Lotion

## **Christmas Poinsettia Order Form**

Orders are now being accepted for Christmas Poinsettias. The cost is \$10 each and orders are due by Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Orders and payment can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church.

Name:

# of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 Each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Other:

Given By: