

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
Morning Worship
March 30th, 2025 4th Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP – I am the Vine

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

P: We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.

L: Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

P: No longer do we label our sisters and brothers, we welcome them with open arms.

L: Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,

P: and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!

HYMN "Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation" #276

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: We know our faults -- the way we have treated others, our alienation from God, our unwillingness to be faithful people. We will not hide our sin or remain silent, but confess them to the One who surrounds us with steadfast love. Please join me as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

On this very day, Waiting God, we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you. You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder, yet we would hide in places where temptation waits. You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse, because you also welcome those we call 'outsiders.' We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make, but hope you will ignore our foolish choices.

Celebrating God, before we come to our senses, we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms, tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession, a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we find no limitations

on your grace, no reservations about your love, but a feast that overflows with wonder, a place we can finally call home.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

ALL: Broken, we are made whole; lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness.

We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy.

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

Old Testament Lesson Joshua 5:9-12 p.189

New Testament Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 p.1006

Gospel Lesson Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 p.908

MESSAGE Randy Knupp

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #92

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 **"Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine"** **#345**

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: God sends us forth,

P: to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed.

L: Jesus, our Brother, sends us to welcome everyone.

P: We will embrace the prodigals with joy, we will make a feast for all of God's people.

L: The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing.

P: We will go to bring hope to all we meet.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE **"God Be With You"** **#602**

**** Rev. Thom Shuman ©**

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

I Am the Vine

(Fourth Sunday in Lent)

The vine draws food from the earth to provide the branches with nourishment. When the branch is severed from the vine, it withers and dies. Likewise, it is through the branches that the vine bears fruit. The mutual indwelling of the vine and the branches results in fruitfulness.

When Jesus referred to himself as the vine and to us as the branches, he was alluding to the life giving force that he brings into our lives. Apart from him, we become wracked with personal problems; our ministry becomes little more than a hectic round of committee meetings and activities; and we experience very little spiritual growth. As a part of the vine, we become fruitful. Our witness to the Lord Jesus Christ becomes productive, and our ministry brings glory to the living God.

The vine cannot bear fruit without the branches. When we do not witness and others do not experience the love of God through us, the vine is barren. With Christ as the center of our lives, persons experience the nature of God through our lives. They see Christ mirrored in us, and we bear fruit for the vine.

I am
the vine

John 15.5



Offering: 03/23
Attendance: 14
Local 417.00
Benev. 28.55
Improv. 24.45
Total 470.00

Sunday March 30th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday April 6th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



Orders for Easter Flowers are now being accepted. Please use the form found in your bulletin to order. Orders and payments can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Orders can also be placed on the church website. Deadline for orders is today.

One Great Hour of Sharing collection fish are available in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to participate, be sure to pick yours up today.

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 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.

Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Dawna Sheets	Dave & Karen Vivis
Jeanne Lehman	Joshua Holbay Family
Marie Whorl	Dominic Serratore
Bev Holbay	Loretta Davidson
Mark Todero	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Carl Newfield	Rodney Gramling
Beverly Rager	Randy Maurer
Mikey Ferante	Jim Kuntz
Jill Sheets	Taylor Short
Frank Cassat	Barry Ross
Nancy Kahl	All Shut- Ins
Linda Hayes	All in Nursing Homes
Matt Molnar	All First Responders
Bobbie Johnson	All Service Men & Women
Will Karalfa	All Healthcare Professionals
Nancy Thomas	

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

Visit Our Website (www.bethanyjohnstown.com) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for- the latest news, information and much more!

Donations of non-perishable foods and cleaning products for the West End Food Pantry can be placed in the bins by the Blaine St. entrance. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.