

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
January 12, 2025 2nd Sunday of Christmas Day

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Here in this place, now in these moments, we gather to meet our God,

P: whose Word runs sprints through the rough streets of our lives.

L: Here in these people, now with shared cares and prayers, we hope to see our God,

P: who transfigures our shadows into light, who transforms our grief into gratitude.

L: Here in our silence, now in our songs, we long to know our God,

P: who gathers us in from every far place, who melts our frozen hearts with love.

HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #145

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: We have gone places we should have avoided; we have wandered the wrong streets; we have spoken those words we cannot take back; we have squandered our inheritance from God. Let us confess all those ways we have not been God's children, as we pray together,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(unison)*

ALL: God who has chosen us before we ever were, we confess how we have heard Your Word, but not allowed that grace and truth to transform us.

Offered life, we choose death; furnished hope, we cling tightly to our despair; extended fellowship, we walk in our loneliness; granted peace, we idolize power and might; offered forgiveness, we are convinced we can save ourselves.

Forgive us, God of promises. The mark of being Your people is seeing how completely dependent we are on You: for life, for hope, for love. All these, and more, You give to us in your Word of Truth and Your Child of grace, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: This is God's good news: wherever we have wandered, God gathers us up and brings us home; whatever we have done, God forgives us; whoever we are, we are God's child, enveloped in God's love.

P: Blessed be our God, who gives us voices to sing our joy and who sets our feet dancing in praise.

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 with a virtual hug or handshake or wave saying "The peace of Christ be with you")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

#625

Prayer of Dedication**

We not only have spiritual blessings, but tangible ones as well. So, we pray that you will gather up these gifts we offer and will transform them into food for the hungry, hope for the despairing, healing for the broken, and peace for those who are torn apart by war and fear. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson	Jeremiah 31:7-14	p.679
Second Lesson	Ephesians 1:3-14	p.1017
Gospel Lesson	John 1: 1-18	p.922

Message Tammy Noss

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed

HYMN

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" #152

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

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Let us go, remembering the gift of the Word.

P: We will go to sing of the good news to a silent world.

L: Let us go, filled with the gifts of the bread and the cup.

We will go to feed the emptiness of those around us.

Let us go with the gifts of the water and the oil.

We will go to anoint all brokenness with the peace of God.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Joy to the World"

#125

**© *Rev. Thom Shuman*

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

WORSHIP LEADER:

The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in.

The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums.

The world would mold men by changing their environment.

Christ changes men, who then change their environment.

The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature.....Ezra Taft Benson

In Jesus we see perfectly displayed the mind of God....

This is God from beginning to end, saying "I love you like that; you can batter me, you can bruise me, you can forsake me, you can crown me with thorns, you can treat me with injustice, you can scourge me—

I love you, nothing will stop my loving you."William Barclay

