

**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**

**August 31, 2025      17th Sunday In Ordinary Time**

## CALL TO WORSHIP\*\*

L: We come to worship our God, to listen to the One who calls us here.

**P: We come trusting God to lead us in the coming days, as surely as were our grandparents in the faith.**

L: We come to worship our God, to shout with joy to the God of all people.

**P: We come to the Creator of all things, to be bathed in the waters of life.**

L: We come to the Feast of God's faithful, to be fed by the One who never forsakes us.

**P: We come to worship our God, to sing aloud to the One who saves us.**

**HYMN      "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"      #108**

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\*

L: Despite all the ways we speak of sin - failures, mistakes, intended acts, Scripture tells us that we are stubborn-hearted, wanting only our way. But if we pause to listen to God, if we open our mouths (and our hearts) to confess our sin, God will fill our emptiness with forgiveness and hope. Let us pray together, as we say,

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\*

**ALL: We are always uncomfortable, Watching God, when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance.**

**Forgive us, Welcoming God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Lord and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed.**

## SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\*

L: This is the good news: after what God has done for us, what can anyone or anything do to us? We are new people, graced by our loving God.

**P: Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by our God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet.**

## 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\*\*

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we are offered opportunities to reach out to those who are in need of hope, healing, and friendship. This is why you pour out your blessings upon us, trusting that we will share from our abundance to bless others, even as we have been blessed. Receive the gifts we offer, multiply them, and use them in the work of grace and justice. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

**Old Testament                      Jeremiah 2:4-13                      p.647**

**New Testament                      Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16                      p.1052**

**Gospel**                      **Luke 14: 1, 7-14**                      **p.907**

## MESSAGE

## Tara Ometz

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH -The Apostles' Creed

**HYMN      "Wonderful Words of Life"      #270**

## 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 "Bless Be the Tie That Binds" #286**

## BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\*

L: Having listened to God's words, we are sent to serve others.

**P: Today and tomorrow, we will follow where God leads.**

L: Having joined in songs of praise and hope, we will carry these gifts into the world.

**P: Today and tomorrow, we will serve beside Jesus.**

L: Having been filled with the Spirit of justice, we will go to be with all who struggle.

**P: Today and tomorrow, we will bring justice and peace to those around us.**

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

**\*\*© Rev. Thom Shuman**

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Ray Sheets**

Some years ago, a bishop visited a parochial school. When he asked the little boys if they would like to be priests when they grew up, several boys raised their hands. Then he asked how many would like to be bishops. One little boy raised his hand.

The other boys began to giggle at something that was going on behind the bishop's back. When the bishop looked around, he saw several priests standing on either side of the altars with their hands raised.

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