

Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP-I Am The Bread of Life
CALL TO WORSHIP****

L: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

P: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

L: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

P: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

L: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

P: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

HYMN "It Is Well With My Soul" #493

CALL TO RECONCILIATION **

L: God makes no distinction between us. We are all sinners, we are all children of God, we are all precious to God, and we are all saved by God. Because God makes no distinction, let us confess our common humanity to the One who is generous to all.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our ancestors and God of our children, we come knowing we have preferred to test you, rather than to trust you. The famine in our souls makes us long to be filled with the empty promises of the world. We listen to the soothing words of the advertisers, rather than to the uncomfortable words of discipleship.

Forgive us, God of our lives. Bring us out of that dependence on ourselves, and bring us into the presence of the One we seek to follow, not only to Jerusalem, but beyond - into life with you forever, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: As you have confessed, do you so believe? The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope.

P: This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our live.

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 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 p.174

New Testament Romans 10:8b-13 p.985

Gospel Luke 4: 1-13 p.892

Message Randy Knupp

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –The Apostles' Creed

HYMN "Take Time to Be Holy" #441

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: Now let us go from this place of haven God has given to us.

P: Led by the Spirit, we will go to be with those who are filled with fears, with hopes.

L: Now let us go from the refuge of the Table where we have tasted the first fruits of grace.

P: Led by the Spirit, we will go to feed those who hunger for companionship and life.

L: Now let us go into the world, living out God's reality that there is no distinction between people.

P: Led by the Spirit, let us go to serve our sisters and brothers who are our true family.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE :Let There Be Peace

**** © Rev. Thom Shuman**

ORGANIST'S: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

I Am the Bread of Life (*First Sunday in Lent*)

Food is a primary necessity of life. By calling himself the bread of life, Jesus drew the parallel between the bread which sustains mortal life and himself as the bread which sustains eternal life. Just as bread provides energy and strength to meet the needs of our bodies, Jesus provides the spiritual energy and strength needed to live triumphantly.

The life outlined by Jesus for his followers is a challenging one, requiring a significant personal investment. Those who accept the lifestyle exemplified by Jesus must have power through him to accomplish it. In Christ there is peace, not anxiety; fullness, not famine.

Today, we find much of our time is occupied with food — or the symbol for food, bread — in one form or another. Our family traditions of togetherness center on meals, family reunions, and holiday foods. Recreation often includes a hot dog or popcorn and a soft drink. Friends are welcomed to dinner parties, invited in for coffee, and feted at open houses.

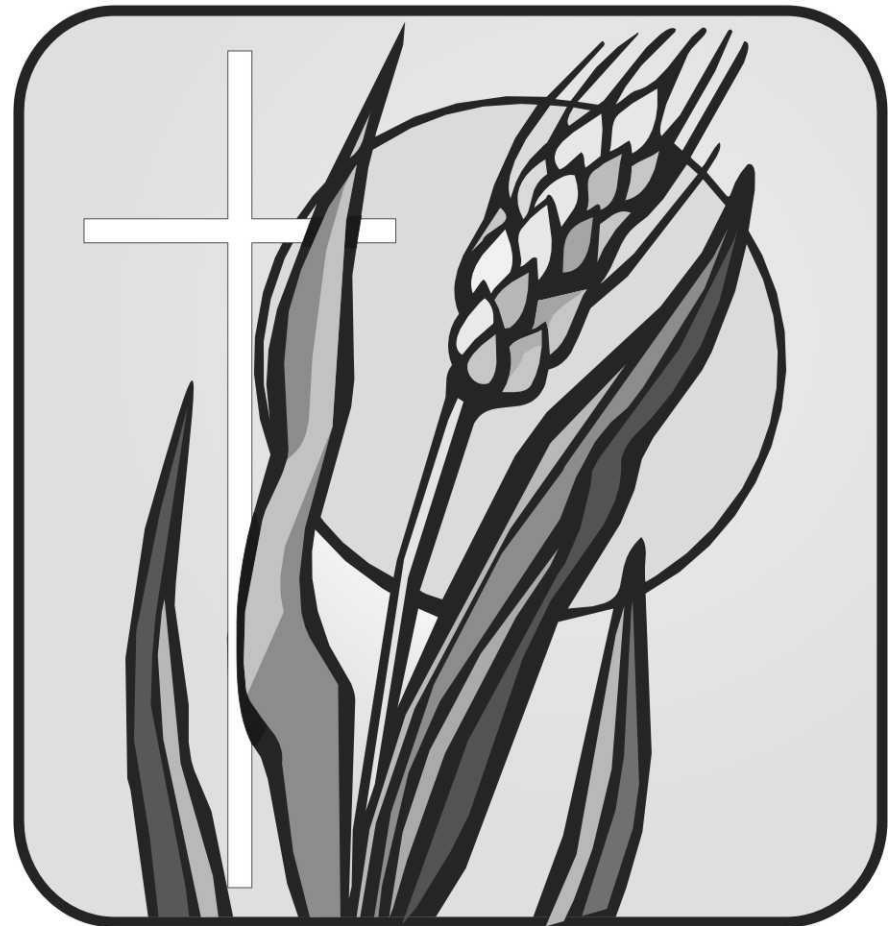
Our charity sometimes takes the form of food baskets for the needy, and when we are ridden with anxiety, many of us seek solace through food. Even in the holy celebration of the Lord's Supper, we use the symbolic bread. Just as food is intimately interwoven with our daily existence and interaction with others, so must Jesus be if we are to appropriate the abundant life.

But, the symbol of bread takes on another meaning as well. All around us are the signs, of deprivation — millions of starving people at home and abroad — a stark contrast when a major health problem in our country is obesity. When Christ said, "I am the living bread," he was speaking clearly to the people of today. He is still the staff of life, our strength, and our energy.

Today, Jesus speaks clearly to our lifestyles with an emphasis on intentionality. Can we as Christians overfeed ourselves while others starve? What exactly is our responsibility in an ever-smaller world with an ever-increasing population? Ringing clearly through the centuries comes the answer, "I am the bread of life," life abundant and triumphant for all persons. We have the commission to feed each other materially and spiritually, as Jesus in our lives feeds us. (*John 21.15-19*)

I am the BREAD of life

John 6.35



Offering: 03/02
Attendance: 16
Local 753.60
Benev. 52.20
Improv. 44.20
First Fruits 45.00
Mem. Fund 25.00
Total 920.00

Sunday March 9th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday March 16th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



Subscriptions for The Upper Room are now due. The cost is \$9 for the year. Please give all payments to Ray Sheets. If you are not currently receiving one and would like to, let Ray know as well.

We Are Working on updating our Prayer Chain. The prayer chain helps to lift up those in need of prayers. If you are interested in participating, contact Linda Orlidge.

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 & Iva Jean Kuntz
Jill Sheets	Taylor Short
Frank Cassat	Deb Rozich
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.