

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
December 21, 2025 4th Sunday of Advent

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Come, Over-flowing joy:

P: **tip-toeing into our lives like the children on the holiest of nights.**

L: Come, Good News of grace:

P: **prepare our hearts to welcome you, and all whose hopes have turned to ashes.**

L: Come, Dreamer of peace:

P: **so we may pour our lives and gifts into a world in need of reconciliation.**

INTROIT

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1, 2, 3 & 4 #123

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING –JOY AND LOVE – Linda Orlidge and Lily Vozsnyak

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,

A candle of Joy in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,

Our hearts we prepare, for the Love of Jesus is nigh.

(Sung to the tune of Away In a Manger)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

How easy we lost our way on the road to Bethlehem! How quick we are to dismiss the dreams and hopes our God has for us in this holy season! Let us come to the One who approaches, ready to swaddle us in forgiveness and grace, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Come now, Reconciler of the nations, for our world, our lives, need your peace more than ever before.

Come, Caller to discipleship, for we long to let go of our self-interest and narcissism.

Come, Word Gifter, for we hunger to hear your voice once again, ever always.

Come, Servant of the poor, so we notice you in all those we push past in this hectic season.

Come, Silence of our nights and Holiness of our hearts, and forgive us for turning your compassion into commercials, your joy into jingles, your hope into hollow words, your love into lust for the short-lasting offerings of the world. May we find our way to the One born simply, born gracefully, for us – Jesus, the Child of wonder and life

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: We may not notice them there, at the back of the pile of presents, but it is God's hope, God's life, God's mercy, which are the true gifts we receive each and every moment.

P: We give thanks to our gracious God, who has forgiven us and blessed us.

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 7:10-16 p.591
Second Lesson Romans 1:1-7 p.977
Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 p.835
MESSAGE Tammy Noss

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed #717

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" #132

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 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #128

BENEDICTION**

L: Come, let us go with God to bring healing to the world.

**P: Come, let us bring family to the lonely,
comfort to those who grieve.**

L: Come, let us go with Jesus to all are forgotten.

**P: Come, let us carry justice to the oppressed,
to feed those who hunger in body and soul.**

L: Come, let us go with the faithful Spirit.

**P: Come, let us speak the gospel with our lips,
let us share grace with our lives.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Joy to the World!" 1st verse #125

** © Rev.Thom Shuman

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger



Offering: 12/07
Attendance: 18
Local 296.00
Benev. 17.40
Improv. 40.00
Roof Fund 200.00
Total 574.00

Sunday December 21st
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Church Christmas Party

Wednesday December 24th
 Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

Sunday December 28th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Session Meeting

The Annual Church Christmas Party will be held today after Worship. Please be sure to stay and enjoy the food and fellowship.

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.

Session will meet next Sunday (December 28th) after Morning Worship.

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. Thank you for your support.

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 & Charlene Jean	All Healthcare Professionals
Eileen Rozich	

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!

Sign Ups for 2026 Lay Leaders are still being accepted. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

Orders are now being taken for 2026 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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

In Memory Of

Cindy Griffin
Jake Johnson
Huchel
The Brewer Family
The Molnar Family
David Hayduk
Loved Ones
Loved Ones

Given By

John Griffin
Sandy & Laura

The Molnar's
The Molnar's
Linda Orlidge
The Vozsnyak's
Linda Orlidge

In Honor Of

Loretta Davidson
Jessie Rager
Bobbie Johnson

Given By

John Griffin

Sandy & Laura Huchel

