

I Am the Light of the World
(Second Sunday in Lent)

When we walk in the darkness, the way is not clear to us. We stumble about, placing ourselves in danger unaware. On the other hand, when we walk in the light our way is clear. We are able to see the pitfalls and avoid them, moving with assurance toward our goal. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He is a sure beacon by which to guide our lives and our interactions with others.

Light brings out the beauty in us. Dinner by candlelight makes each person around the table seem radiant with their natural, inner beauty. But, light makes evident our unloveliness as well. Our imperfections cannot be hidden in the light. Such things as our anger or harshness or jealousy or selfishness are there for all to see.

Often, we Christians view the light as being too ideal, too much for us to accomplish. We stray from the light into the darkness because the light requires too much of us. It has a way of making us uncomfortable at times, and it often clashes with what we prefer to do.

Through the centuries, well-meaning Christians have strayed from the path into the darkness. Wars have been waged in the name of God. Villages have been plundered and destroyed in the name of the church. Some persons have been enslaved. Rights have been denied to others.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He did not come to support tradition. He did not come to justify our misconceptions about God. He did not come to judge us for our shortcomings. He came to bring light into the world. If we keep our eyes steadfastly fastened upon Jesus and his teaching, the way will be clear. He does not promise us the way will be easy; in fact, he warns us that it is just the opposite. But, as rocky and difficult as it may become at times, with Jesus lighting the way, we can and will be builders of the kingdom.

Another aspect of this theme focuses upon light as a form of energy, calling us into accountability as good stewards of our resources. Are we free to be irresponsible with the light provided upon earth? As the world faces the certainty of diminishing energy sources, will we truly see ourselves plunged into darkness because of poor stewardship? What can we as Christians do about this?

I am the light of the world

John 8.12



Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
March 16th, 2025 2nd Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP-I Am the Light of the World

CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:

P: to wait in silence for the Word, to sit at the Table of grace.

L: Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

P: to bring hope to those who have none, to love all tossed aside by indifference.

L: The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

P: so we might discover the gift of peace, and offer it to our broken world.

HYMN "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #435

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: Join me in imitating all who have gone before us, who trusted that if they spoke of their misdeeds and hollow hearts, God would not only hear them, but forgive them. Let us pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: Offered a feast at grace's table, God of the covenant, we choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed.

Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance.

But you will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, Mothering God, but will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us up, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

P: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests upon us and gives us hope and 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*

As you have blessed us beyond all expectation and need, we would join in imitating you, by offering gifts which will bring hope, healing, and help to those who struggle in this life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18	p.11
New Testament Lesson	Philipians 3:17-4:1	p.1024
Gospel Lesson	Luke 13:31-35	p.907

MESSAGE

Tammy Noss

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- The Apostles' Creed

HYMN: "HERE I AM LORD" #525 (Other Hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and the LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

HYMN " There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" #252

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, go with God:

P: we will take the Word of grace into our world.

L: Today, tomorrow, and the next days, go with Jesus:

P: we will shelter those who have nowhere else to go.

L: Today, tomorrow, and all the days to come, go with the Spirit:

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace"

**** © Rev. Thom Shuman**

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

WORSHIP LEADER: Ray Sheets

Offering: 03/09
Attendance: 13
Local 279.00
Benev. 19.60
Improv. 16.40
Total 315.00

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

Sunday March 23rd
 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 March 31st.

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.

Easter Flowers

Deadline For Orders: March 31st

Orders and payment can be placed in the offering plate
or mailed to the church

NAME:

of Tulips ____ @ \$10 Each = \$____

of Hyacinths ____ @ \$10 Each = \$____

of Lilies ____ @ \$13 Each = \$____

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Other:

Given By: