

**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**CALL TO WORSHIP \*\***

L: Be patient! The time is coming when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus,

**P: when we will sing and rejoice, dancing with everlasting joy.**

L: But for now, be patient, as we wait in this time called Advent,

**P: when God speaks through dreams and visions,  
and we are invited to dance down the holy way into the kingdom.**

L: For this is Advent, as we prepare to join the world  
in celebrating the Creator of goodness and hope,

**P: when those who limp will teach new dance steps,  
when the voiceless sing will sing.**

**INTROIT**

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

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING –JOY – 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 blessing from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

**(Sung to the tune of Away in the Manger)**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: There is no need to wait in long lines. God is always willing to listen – to our hearts as well as our voices, as we admit how we have not cared as we could, have not shared as we should. Let us join, as we pray, saying,

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION \*\***

**ALL: This season is supposed to be so holy, God of Christmas, yet the din of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps. As we drive down the streets, the decorations on all the houses keep us from seeing the loneliness of the widower, the strained faces of those who fear the future. We are so determined to find just the right gift or card which speaks of joy, we forget that you came so long ago to offer justice to those who have none.**

**Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless, to walk with those who have lost their way, to let go of our certainty of what really happened to long ago, and listen to the songs of children which speak of that peace which really can bring reconciliation, of that grace which really can offer hope, of that love which really can to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: Do not be afraid, but believe. Our God is here, opening our eyes to see that salvation which is ours approaching us in this season of Advent.

**P: We join our voices in rejoicing in God who is our Savior.  
The One who calls us blessed, is the God who forgives 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**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**#625**

## LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson	Isaiah 35:1-10	p.615
Second Lesson	James 5:7-10	p.1056
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 11:2-11	p.844

MESSAGE Reverend Randy Knupp

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

HYMN "A Thousand Candles" #159

## 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 LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #133

## BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\*

L: Let us journey into the world with our God,

**P: to rebuild shattered hearts with hope.**

L: Let us spend each day with Jesus,

**P: mending brokenness with love.**

L: Let us share our hearts with the Spirit,

**P: so we may be with those who are waiting for peace.**

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verse 4 #123

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger



*Peace*

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

**Sunday December 14th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Church Christmas Party**

**Sunday December 21st**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**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 on Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.