



LIVE YOUR  
**LIFE**  
IN A MANNER  
WORTHY OF THE  
GOSPEL OF  
**CHRIST.**

Philippians 1:27, NRSV

# Celebration of Worship

---

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

**December 5, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

**PRELUDE**

“O Holy Boy”

John Ireland

**WELCOME**

**GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** – The McGarrity Family

The Wise Men and shepherds saw signs that foretold Jesus' coming over 2000 years ago. Today we don't look for a single brilliant star to follow or for angels singing in the heavens. We look for other signs that Jesus is with us, signs that:

..... we are feeding the hungry, healing the sick,  
..... clothing the naked, caring for the poor,  
..... working for justice and righteousness at home and in our world.

**People: And so, we watch, and wait, and stay alert, waiting again for the coming of Jesus. And we light a single candle in preparation for that glorious day.**

**\*HYMN #348**

“Lo, How He Comes with Clouds Descending”

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for our salvation slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
join to sing the glad refrain:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Now redemption, long expected,  
comes in solemn splendor near;  
all the saints this world rejected  
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory;  
claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus.  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you. And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and only treat others the way you wish to be treated. Do not initiate divisions, but rather let us bring peace to our hearts and to the world.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**Creator God, we confess we can be an impatient people used to instant delivery. At times we forget how waiting can give birth to a needed patience and a greater appreciation of our many blessings. Amen.**

Leader: Let us in silence confess our own personal sins. (Silence)

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends in Christ, hear a word of grace for this day and hour: Through our honest confession, our lives, however incomplete, and our intentions, however lacking, are gently gathered up into God and transformed by God's unyielding love and mercy.

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS** [Children may leave for "Roots and Wings" activities in the Large Hall, and return to their pews after the sermon.]

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)**

**Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Psalm 25:1-5

page 436 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.     **People: Thanks be to God**

**BELL CHOIR ANTHEM**

“Veni”  
Celebration Ringers

Jason Krug

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Philippians 1:1-11

page 953 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Dr. Bob Spratt

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #97**

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Watchman, tell us of the night,  
what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, what a wondrous sight:  
see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray  
news of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,  
promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night;  
higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light,  
peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone  
gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own;  
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night,  
for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, shadows take their flight;  
doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, you may go your way;  
hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, we rejoice today,  
for Emmanuel has come!

## **SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

Congregational Response: "Lord, we praise you." or "Lord, hear our prayer"

## **THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **PRESENTATION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS**

### **OFFERTORY**

"Advent Message"

Martin How

Bethany Choir

Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus, Amen  
Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus, Amen  
Come Lord Jesus, O come quickly,  
Come Lord Jesus, O come quickly,  
Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus, Amen,  
Come Lord Jesus

The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness,  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
Make straight in the desert,  
A highway for our God

Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus, Amen  
Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus, Amen  
Come Lord Jesus, O come quickly,  
Come Lord Jesus, O come quickly,  
Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus,  
Amen, amen, amen, amen,  
Come Lord come.

**\*DOXOLOGY #606** (Unison) "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise Christ, all people here below;**  
**Praise Holy Spirit evermore.**

**Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**We are grateful for the opportunity to support many good causes during this Advent season, and especially do we thank you for the opportunity to invest in the proclamation of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**All who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to share in this feast. All Baptized Children who have been instructed by their parent(s) in the meaning of the sacrament are also welcomed to the Lord's Table.**

**Invitation to the Lord's Supper**

**Words of Institution**

**Distribution of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Commitment (Unison)**

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #93**

**"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.

**\*BLESSING**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT CHURCH LEADERS**

**Call**

This meeting of the congregation is called for the purpose of dissolving the Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

**Opening Prayer**

**Presence of a Quorum**

**Motion to elect Judy Price as Clerk for this meeting**

**Report of the Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**

– Craig Johnson

**Motion to dissolve the Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**

**Motion to allow Session to review and approve the minutes of this meeting at their next meeting.**

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Closing Prayer**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Festive Postlude on Mendelssohn”

Vernon Hoyle

There will be a congregational meeting this morning immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the purpose of dissolving the Designated Associate Nominating Committee.

**CHILDCARE** is available.

**THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:** Dick Bauman, Richard Britton, Wayne Crawford, Bev Murray, Brenda Spratt, Beth Thomsen

**LAY LITURGIST:** Cheryl Fisher

**ACOLYTES:** Catherine Tedji, Deborah Tedji

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Peg Cameron, Carole (friend of Beth Thomsen), Wilma Chadwick, Donna Hancock, Debbie Leipold (friend of Bev Murray), Melanie (Debbie Haskin's sister), Nancy Ann (friend of Virginia Britton), Bill Phillips, Richard Platt, Dee Steiner, Cliff Streams.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Telesca family at the passing of Linda

**Monroe County-wide Prayer Initiative 2021** for the week of December 5 is the Cascade District.

### BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	12/5	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/5	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	12/5	11:15 am	Sunday School
Sunday	12/5	11:30 am	Liturgical Deacons – (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/5	12 pm	Session – (Zoom)
Monday	12/6	7 pm	Stephen Ministers – (Large Hall)
Tuesday	12/7	10 am	Belles & Beaux – (Sanctuary)
Wednesday	12/8	10:30 am	Staff meeting – (Library)
Wednesday	12/8	6:15 pm	C&GM – (Third floor)
Wednesday	12/8	6:30 pm	Spiritual Growth – (Library)
Wednesday	12/8	7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers – (Sanctuary)
Thursday	12/9	7:15 pm	Bethany Choir – (Sanctuary)
Sunday	12/12	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	12/12	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	12/12	11:15 am	Sunday School

Bethany Family, as you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified Monroe County as an area of substantial transmission. Our church will remain fully open for worship this Sunday, but ask that all attending, regardless of their vaccination status, wear a mask, per the guidance of Monroe County Executive Adam Bello and Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Mendoza. If you are not feeling well, please join us from your home for on-line worship. Please continue to pray for our health care workers and for the health and safety our congregation, friends, families, and neighbors. Blessings, Jim Hetzler, Personnel and Operations Chairperson

**ADVENT FAMILY CELEBRATION:** The Christian Education Committee would like to invite everyone to a generational event planned for December 12, 2021. Our Advent Family Celebration will begin with a children's program during the service entitled, "The Friendly Beasts". Our children will share their talents during the service! All are invited following the service to join the children in decorating Christmas cookies for the shut-

ins and enjoying a pizza lunch. \*Pizza will be supplied, but please sign-up in the narthex or by calling the church office by December 10th.

**TREE OF WARMTH:** Please bring new hat mittens and gloves and pin to our tree in the parlor. Help support "Keeping our Promise", an organization supporting Afghanistan refugees. For more information on this program, see [www.keepingourpromise.org](http://www.keepingourpromise.org)

**P.A.D. PROJECT INITIATIVE: Bethany Presbyterian Women will receive monthly mission donations in December.** During the month of December BPWC will once again be collecting items for the P.A.D. Project Initiative, which stands for providing access and dignity to women and girls. This initiative was developed by the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women. We are requesting donations of sanitary pads, tampons and pantliners which will be assembled into kits containing enough supplies for a typical 5-day cycle. Many agencies provide services to low income and homeless persons; however, many do not address this unique need women face during their monthly cycle. We have set a goal of 100 kits which will be provided to Mary's Place, a refugee outreach center located on Lexington Avenue in Greece. Donations may be dropped off in the designated church basket located in the Narthex. We look forward to your support of this worthwhile mission project of the Bethany Presbyterian Women.

**THE CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP TASK FORCE:** invites you to join us in planning worship services that will provide our church community with options for hearing God's Word, in a relaxed, energized, personal, and meaningful way. If you would like this opportunity, please contact Cindy Hetzler at 585-317-1946 or [cindyhetzler34@gmail.com](mailto:cindyhetzler34@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** December 19 our Christmas Joy offering will be collected. The recipients are chosen by Presbyterian Church USA. Half of our gifts will be used to help students learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The other half will be used to support church leaders – past, present and future. Please be generous as you consider supporting those who have helped and will help our faith development in the future. Thank you.  
Community and Global Mission Committee

**BYF/YOUTH DEACON ALUMNI—11:00 Christmas Eve Candle lighting** Let's start a new tradition! If you are a former BYF member or Youth Deacon and will be attending the 11:00PM Christmas Eve service, please come to the front of the church at the end of the service to help distribute the candlelight for the singing of "Silent Night." We look forward to seeing you there.

**BETHANY STAFF - Pastoral:** Dr. Bob Spratt, Head of Staff/Sr. Pastor, drspratt.bethany@gmail.com; **Music Team:** Jacob Montgomery, Music Director, jmontgomery.bethany@gmail.com; Jean Coniber, Bell Choir Director, jconiber233@gmail.com; Jeff Tabor, Staff Singer; **Office:** Eileen Sengillo, Administrative Assistant, sengillo.bethany@gmail.com; Tom Olney, Bookkeeper and Contributions Secretary, tolney.bethany@gmail.com; **Custodian:** Jim Cruppe; **Nursery:** Jennifer Watt.

**LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS** - [**Donna Bour-Purdy**, Audit Committee Chair], [**Craig Johnson**, Budget and Finance Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Wendy Watt**, Christian Education], [**Judy Price**, Community and Global Mission Committee Session Elder and **Cheryl Fisher**, Chair], [**Jennifer McGarrity**, Congregational Life Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Judy Montanari**, Investment Management Committee Chair], [**Craig Foreman**, Liturgical Deacons Chair], [**Al Adaskin**, Memorial Committee Chair], [**Bev Murray**, Nominating Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Karen Dobbins and Judy Price**, Pastoral Care Deacons Co-Chairs], [**Jim Hetzler**, Personnel and Operations Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Dick Livoti**, Presbytery Delegate], [**Steve Watt**, Property Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Carrie Buri**, Spiritual Growth Committee Session Elder and **Craig Covert**, Chair], [**Ron Fisher, Jim Hetzler, Mike Kuitunen and Jacob Montgomery**, Technology Team], [**Carl DeGraff**, Treasurer], [**Cheryl Fisher**, Webmaster], [**Bev Bennett**, Welcoming Committee Session Elder and Chair], [**Connie Slapar**, Worship and Music Committee Session Elder and Chair].

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:** At times, families or individuals may find they need pastoral support for various reasons ranging from a long-term matter or an emergency. In the event of a pastoral emergency, this can be sought by calling the church office (585) 663-3000 during normal business hours or after hours at (585) 496-4699. In addition, there are several members of the congregation that can be called on for support called Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. To receive support from a Stephen Minister contact Kim Bolinger at (585) 227-2540 or Wendy Watt (585) 415-2351.

### ***Bethany Presbyterian Church***

*We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.*

**Bethany's phone number: 663-3000 ~ Bethany's website: [www.bethanyrochester.org](http://www.bethanyrochester.org)**