



2nd
Sunday
in Lent

Celebration of Worship

Bethany Presbyterian Church
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

March 13, 2022

10:00 a.m.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

“Christe qui lux es et dies”
O Christ, who art the Light and Day,
thou drivest darksome night away;
we know thee as the Light of light
illuminating mortal sight.

Jan Pietersoon Sweelinck

WELCOME

GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison)**

**Help us, Lord, to put aside anything that would hinder our worship.
Help us to overcome distractions and to focus on you alone.
Ease our doubts, and help us to approach you with a spirit that is positive
and trusting.**

***HYMN #321**

“The Church’s One Foundation” (vs. 1,3,5)

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,

yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
may live eternally.

***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)**

We come, Almighty God, to lay down our masks, to surrender our pretenses, to disarm our defenses, to dismiss our excuses, and to simply accept your saving grace. Amen.

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

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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)

**Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe,
and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 27:1-14 pages 437,438 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Do Not Be Afraid”

Philip Stopford

Bethany Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:12-4:1 page 955 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 #754**

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!

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

"Trio No. 5, Mvt. 2"

J.S. Bach

***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**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (Unison)

**Almighty God, accept these gifts, we pray, as an indication that we accept
our commission to serve you; for each of us has a ministry to fulfill.
Amen.**

WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE WORLD

***HYMN #546**

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us,
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

CHILDCARE is available from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM in the Church Nursery located across from the Church Library for newborns through Pre-K.

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

LAY LITURGIST: Cindi Sywulski

ACOLYTES: Catherine Tedji, Deborah Tedji

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Wilma Chadwick, Donna Hancock, Mark Leavitt, Debbie Leipold (friend of Bev Murray), Melanie (Debbie Haskin's sister), Nancy Ann (friend of Virginia Britton), Richard Platt, Dee Steiner, Cliff Streams.

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	3/13	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	3/13	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Youtube, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	3/13	11:15 am	Sunday School
Monday	3/14	2 pm	Pastoral Care Deacons meeting – (Small Hall)
Monday	3/14	7 pm	Life Group #2 (Small Hall)
Tuesday	3/15	10 am	Belles & Beaux – (Sanctuary)
Tuesday	3/15	10 am	Personnel Committee – (Small Hall)
Tuesday	3/15	7 pm	Contemporary Worship Task Force – (Library)
Wednesday	3/16	12:30 pm	Staff meeting – (Library)
Wednesday	3/16	7 pm	Budget & Finance – (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/16	7 pm	Lenten Bible study – (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/16	7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers – (Sanctuary)
Thursday	3/17	7:15 pm	Choir - (Sanctuary)
Sunday	3/20	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	3/20	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Youtube, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	3/20	11:15 am	Sunday School
Sunday	3/20	11 am	Confirmation Class – (Mini Hall)

LENTEN STUDY: Dr. Spratt will explore Dante's Inferno. Dante's Inferno is the first part of Dante Alighieri's epic poem *La divina commedia*, or *The Divine Comedy*. Virgil the poet leads Dante into hell. Virgil guides Dante through the Nine Circles of Hell. In particular, Dante's Inferno is about the eternal fates of villains of historical and literary renown. It examines the vices of human nature and ramifications of tragedy. The class will run every Wednesday for these remaining dates (March 16th, March 23rd, March 30th and April 6th) from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm on Zoom.

BUDGET TASK FORCE: As discussed at the Annual Congregational Meeting, we have a budget shortfall that requires using the General Endowment Fund to balance the budget. Our income has steadily declined year over year while expenses increase. This is not a sustainable way to operate. To address this issue, Session approved the formation of a task force to study the long term trends and propose ways to bring income and expenses into balance. The task force needs help from members of the congregation to accomplish this. If you are interested in participating please contact Craig Johnson at 415-1578.

PER CAPITA: This is a reminder to pay the per capita assessment for 2022. Per capita is the dues we pay to Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly to help fund their operations and cover the services they provide us. The amount this year is \$35.58 for each member of the congregation. The amount is printed on the offering envelope box. If you don't make your contribution, Bethany will end up paying for your

share using funds that could be used elsewhere in the budget. Thank you to those who have already made their payment!

SHIPMATES: SAVE THE DATE April 9, 2022 We will meet at the Long Pond Family Restaurant at 11:00am for Breakfast or Lunch. Your choice! You will receive individual checks which are your responsibility. 12:30pm we are off to the History Center & Museum at 595 Long Pond Road for a tour given by Docents Faye Cole and David Seibert. There also is plenty of material to read and Faye and David will be happy to answer any questions you may have. This is the town's bicentennial year. GHS is planning quite a project. Will be an interesting day. Reservations deadline is April 4 and may be made by calling Irene Crawford, 227-2696 or Edna Hamlin, 752-8115. Guests are always welcome... Faye and David have been invited to join us for lunch.

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