



1<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday  
*in* Lent

# Celebration of Worship

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Bethany Presbyterian Church  
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

**March 6, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.**

**WE GATHER**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**GOD'S CHURCH IN ACTION**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: On this, the first Sunday of Lent,

**People: let us come before the Lord with humility,  
for God alone can cleanse us.**

Pastor: Let us come before the Lord with anticipation,

**People: for God can fill our every need.**

Pastor: Let us come before the lord with hope,

**People: for God is our life, our joy and our salvation.**

**\*HYMN #49**

"The God of Abraham Praise"

The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above,  
the Ancient of Eternal Days,  
the God of love!

The Lord, the great I AM,  
by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name,  
forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free,  
high surging where it will.

In prophet's word you spoke of old  
and you speak still.  
Established is your law,  
and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart  
by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek,  
with peace and plenty blest,  
a land of sacred liberty  
and Sabbath rest.  
There milk and honey flow,  
and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow  
with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life  
implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay,  
while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God!  
We praise your holy name:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought,  
and still the same!

**\*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**

**All too often, Lord, we rush through life as if we can do everything by ourselves. Forgive us, Father, for our exaggerated self-confidence. Help us before the events of life force us to acknowledge our dependence on you. May we freely yield ourselves to your loving care. Amen.**

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

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Faith is not doing, but receiving. Be assured that when by faith we receive Jesus Christ, we also receive pardon and peace.

**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)**

**O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear,  
and show us what we ought to do,  
to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 124 page 498 in the pew Bible  
Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** "O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Herbert Howells  
Bethany Choir  
This morning's anthem is dedicated to those struggling with the ongoing war in Ukraine

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 4:1-13 page 835 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 #834** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"  
Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I'm weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light;

take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
precious Lord, linger near;  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall;  
take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

## **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**

**\*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)  
**O Lord, for all that you have already done for us. For all that you are continuing to do in us, for all that you will do during our days on earth, and for all that you will do throughout the eons of eternity, we bring these thankful gifts. Amen.**

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

**\*HYMN #724** "O Jesus, I Have Promised"  
O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,

nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!  
The world is ever near:  
I see the sights that dazzle;  
the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be.  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.

**\*BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Please welcome organist Rob Hamilton this morning filling in for Jacob who is out-of-town.

**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:** David Covert, Craig Foreman, Mike Haskins, Sue Kretovic, Gail Kuhner, Cindi Sywulski

**LAY LITURGIST:** Karen Bolinger

**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.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Coughlin family, at the passing of Elizabeth Coughlin.

### **BETHANY CALENDAR**

Sunday	3/6	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	3/6	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Youtube, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	3/6	11:15 am	Sunday School
Monday	3/7	7 pm	Stephen Ministers – (Large Hall)
Tuesday	3/8	10 am	Belles & Beaux – (Sanctuary)
Tuesday	3/8	10 am	Presbyterian Women – (Large Hall)
Tuesday	3/8	7:30 pm	Congregational Life – (Large Hall)
Wednesday	3/9	12:30 pm	Staff meeting – (Library)
Wednesday	3/9	2 pm	Memorial Committee – (Library)
Wednesday	3/9	7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers – (Sanctuary)
Thursday	3/10	7:15 pm	Choir - (Sanctuary)
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

**CHILDREN = FUTURE** With Sessions' approval, the Personnel and Operations committee is forming a **search committee** for the purpose of hiring a **Christian Youth Leader**. This is a part-time, non-ordained position. The Youth Leader would be responsible for coordinating and organizing Sunday School curriculum, providing training and support to our Sunday School teachers, and leading Bethany Youth Fellowship (BYF) programs, events, activities, and missions. If you are interested in supporting Bethany's children and young adults by working on the Christian Youth Leader Search Committee, please contact Jim Hetzler (585-317-1956 or [jmshetzler@gmail.com](mailto:jmshetzler@gmail.com)) or Craig Johnson (585-415-1578 or [crjohnso@msn.com](mailto:crjohnso@msn.com))

**SHIPMATES:** The Saturday, March 12 meeting with the U.S. Customs and Border Control with Agent Steve Wasser has been canceled.

**LENTEN STUDY:** Beginning March 9, 2022, 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 five weeks (March 9th, 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!

**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)**