



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

John 14:1 NRSV

Celebration of Worship

Bethany Presbyterian Church
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

May 15, 2022
10:00 a.m.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

“Song of Assurance”

Arnold Sherman

WELCOME

GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Come to praise God, all you faithful people!
Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.

People: Praise to God, who rules over all the earth.
Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.

Pastor: Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God.
God created them and established for each a place.

People: God has a place for us in this world.
We have come that God may instruct and equip us.

Pastor: Mountains and hills, trees and animals praise God.
Let all the rulers of the earth do so as well.

People: God provides abundantly for our needs.
God makes of one family all who dwell on earth.

---from *Gathered by Love*, by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1994

***HYMN #15**

“All Creatures of Our God and King” (verses 1-4)

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.

Sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright,
chase off the shadows of the night.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds such blessings on our way,

sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,

sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: If we say we do not sin, we deceive ourselves and are not being honest. But if we confess our sin, God, who is gracious and merciful, will forgive us all our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin together.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

We admit, holy God, that we find it hard to hear your promise of new life. Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives, it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown. You challenge us to accept people who are different from us, but we are not eager to associate with them. You command us to love one another, but some people are not lovable. O God, melt our defenses so we can accept your love and let it flow through us. Grant us courage to embrace newness. Amen.

---from *Gathered by Love*, by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1994

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

O God, your Word is our bread of life. Make us hungry for this life-giving bread, and feed us now with your Word, that we may be nourished in the ways of life and love. Amen.

GOSPEL READING:

John 13:31-35

page 877 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Come down, O Love divine"

Ralph Johnson

Bethany Choir

SECOND NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 11:1-18

page 895 in the pew Bible

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Carolyn Grohman

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (Unison; from *A Declaration of Faith* [PCUSA])

The Spirit came with power to the followers of Jesus. Led by the apostles they began to proclaim with boldness the new thing God had done in Christ. They began to experience in their fellowship a new quality of common life. The Christian fellowship was not a society of perfect people. The struggle between the old way of life and the new was severe. Yet the Spirit produced among followers of Jesus love, joy, peace, and victories in the battle against evil. We believe the Holy Spirit works today whenever believers grow toward maturity in Christ. As long as we live we struggle with sin, but the Spirit's presence assures us God will complete what God has begun in us.

***HYMN: #288**

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

(As the offering is received, please sign, pass, and return the pew pads. Please provide your full name, address, phone number, and check if you are a visitor or a member.)

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**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for making your home with us and claiming us as your own people. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts toward the new world you are creating among us---a world where peace emerges from mutual respect and honest encounters. May your love be reflected in our attitudes and actions when we are together and when we are scattered. Amen.

---from *Gathered by Love*, by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1994

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

***HYMN #707**

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“Fanfare”

William Mathias

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: Kim Bolinger

ACOLYTES: Catherine Tedji, Deborah Tedji

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Wilma Chadwick, Donna Hancock, Jim (Mike Haskin’s brother), Karen Henry, Mark Leavitt, Melanie (Debbie Haskin’s sister), Richard Platt, Dee Steiner, Cliff Streams, Linda Wood.

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	5/15	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	5/15	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Youtube, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	5/15	11 am	Confirmation Class – (Mini Hall)
Sunday	5/15	1:15 am	Sunday School
Monday	5/16	7 pm	Stephen Ministry (Large Hall)
Tuesday	5/17	10 am	Belles & Beaux – (Sanctuary)
Tuesday	5/17	10 am	Personnel Committee – (Small Hall)
Tuesday	5/17	7 pm	Contemporary Worship Task Force – (Library)
Wednesday	5/18	12 pm	Bethany staff meeting – (Library)
Wednesday	5/18	7 pm	Budget & Finance – (Zoom)
Wednesday	5/18	7 pm	Christian Ed – (Library)
Wednesday	5/18	7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers – (Sanctuary)
Thursday	5/19	7:15 pm	Bethany Choir - (Sanctuary)

Friday	5/20	3 pm	Bible Fellowship – (Small Hall) All are welcome!
Sunday	5/22	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	5/22	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Youtube, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	5/22	11 am	Confirmation Class – (Mini Hall)
Sunday	5/22	11:15 am	Sunday School
Sunday	5/22	12 pm	Session – (Zoom)

CELEBRATE WITH US! Please come to the worship service on May 22nd as the Christian Education Committee celebrates the children of the church (and the last official church school lessons for this school year) with a cake after the service! We will honor the teachers who put their time and talent into fulfilling the congregational pledge to undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of our children.

SHIPMATES: “Reminder?” Shipmates...and welcome all! Hurd orchard’s luncheon is made from ingredients grown on the premises! Deadline to sign up is May 16th. Cost \$15.00 per person. Please call Karen Dobbins (227-7719) or Cindy Stanek (727-7853)with your reservation. Send \$15.00 check made out to Bethany Presbyterian church with shipmates in memo section. Mail to: Karen Dobbins ...327 orchard creek lane..14612

LIBRARY NEWS: Have you noticed all the new books on the shelves in the Narthex and Parlor? Members of the Spiritual Growth and Bethany Church Library have been working diligently to clean up the library and put new books out on the shelves for you to sign out. Many books have been donated during the pandemic and are now available for your enjoyment. Sign out cards and due date cards are provided along with instructions in case you have never used this wonderful resource. Many books of all types are available. Enjoy! Jeannette Johnson, Church librarian

CALLING ALL LOCAL CHURCHES

It’s Spring... There’s no better time than now to clean out those items you no longer have a need for. Why not socialize, earn a little money and support a good cause all at the same time! Bethany Presbyterian Church is holding a community garage sale where local churches are the vendors. Any unsold items you do not want to take home can be donated to nonprofit organizations. Crafters are welcome.

WHEN: June 4th, 2022; 10 am – 3:00 pm; RAIN OR SHINE!

WHERE: Bethany Presbyterian Church parking lot

HOW: Church members call & register for the event; send in payment. Bring your items on the day of the event starting at 8:30 am in Bethany’s lot. You’re responsible for set-up & take-down.

HOW MUCH: \$15/3 parking spaces; \$10 for any additional 3 space units

WHY: To bring local churches together, have fun & support community outreach. Free snacks will be provided to vendors & you'll have a spot to freely advertise your crafts.

Bring food items for donation to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf!

TO REGISTER, call Jennifer McGarrity at 585-764-5529

IMPORTANT: Bethany Women's June Lunch Meeting:

We will be meeting the 1st Tuesday on June 7th at 10:00 am instead of June 14th.

Paper goods, beverages and ham will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. We will also be voting on BPWC Officers. Nominations will be received on June 7th. Our current officers have agreed to serve again: Moderator, Karen Bolinger, Vice Moderator, Karen Dobbins, Treasurer, Linda Lamb, Secretary, Jeannette Johnson, Historian, Lisa Clement, and Member at large, Mary Leader. *Family Promise of Greater Rochester* will be presenting.

SHIPMATES ANNUAL SPRING FELLOWSHIP PICNIC:

Saturday - June 11, 2022 - at Towpath Pavilion, Greece Canal Ponds Park.

Cost \$15.00 per person. (Includes Mixed Salad, Macaroni Salad, Fruit Salad, Hamburger or Hot Dog, Condiments and Desserts, Water will be available.. (*IF A 2nd Meat Selection is desired an **additional Charge of \$5.00** is required per selection.*) *Please bring your own Beverage, Place Setting, & Utensils. Also bring Lawn Games & Board games for activities.* Reservation **DEADLINE IS SATURDAY JUNE 4th**. **Contact Jack/Jan Bansbach at (585) 227-1265**, to make your Reservation and meat selection. Send your check to Jack & Jan Bansbach, 1471 Long Pond Rd, Apt E348, Rochester, NY 14626. Please make check's Payable to Bethany Shipmates Line #37 and in the Remarks section, indicate "Picnic". **A SignUp sheet will also be available at our next meeting in May.**

PLEASE DONATE THE FOLLOWING FOR RELIEF IN UKRAINE

There will be a collection box in the narthex on Sunday mornings, or you may bring your donations to the church office when it is open.

- Gauze Pads
- Gauze Rolls
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Burn Pads
- Medical Tape
- Burn Gel
- Butterfly Bandages
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Bottles
- Children's NSAIDs

- Toothbrushes
- Socks
- Wash Cloths
- Aspirin
- Underwear
- Deodorant
- Hot Hands
- First Aid Kits
- Tampons

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