

Celebration of Worship

Bethany Presbyterian Church
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

October 24, 2021
10:00 a.m.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

"Elegy"

George Thalben-Ball

WELCOME

GOD'S CHURCH IN ACTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God is gathering us from many different places.
No one is worthy, but all are invited.

**People: God lifts us up when we stumble and leads us back.
God cares for us amid our pain and losses.**

Pastor: We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble.
Happy are those who take refuge in a loving God.

**People: Our lips pour forth laughter and joyous singing.
We join in shouts of praise to God Most High.**

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Trust in the One who awakens joy in place of tears.

**People: We will bless our God in all times and places.
We will exalt God's name together!**

...adapted from *Led by Love*, by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1996.

*HYMN #611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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 confess, O God, we have made of you a distant deity. We listen to what others say about you, but we have seldom glimpsed for ourselves who you are. We are dominated by our doubts instead of by our practice of prayer. We ask for mercy as we face up to sins we have not recognized and wrongdoings we have tried to ignore. Instill in us a new appreciation of righteousness, and help us to grow in the way you would have us go. Amen.

...adapted from *Led by Love*, by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1996.

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

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.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 7:23-28

page 974 in the pew Bible

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

ANTHEM

"If Ye Love Me"

Philip Wilby (b. 1949)

Bethany Choir

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; e'en the Spirit of Truth.
And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10:46-52

page 823 in the pew Bible

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

SERMON

Rev. Carolyn Grohman

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (unison; from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of

God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaims the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives.

HYMN #772

“Live into Hope”

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God’s own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one’s daily bread, to hear God’s word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Congregational Response: “**Lord, we praise you.**”
“**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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

O God, hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give. We offer more than money; we also offer ourselves. May the sympathy and comfort we share with people in need serve to draw them closer to you. Keep us strong, that this church may give radiant witness to truth, constructive opposition to evil, and merciful redemption to those caught up in the evil of our times. Amen.

...adapted from *Led by Love*, by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1996.

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

HYMN #761

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfil God’s chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bringing new power and strength for action make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Praeludium in D major"

Dietrich Buxtehude

Please welcome to the pulpit this morning Rev. Carolyn Grohman. Dr. Bob will return in the office on October 25, 2021.

CHILDCARE is available.

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

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), Richard Platt, Cliff Streams.

Monroe County-wide Prayer Initiative 2021 for the week of October 24 is the FOCUS – Faith Community & Leaders

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	10/24	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	10/24	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	10/24	11:15 am	Sunday School
Monday	10/25	7 pm	Life Group – (Large Hall)
Tuesday	10/26	10 am	Belles & Beaux – (Sanctuary)
Wednesday	10/27		Church building closed due to electrical repair
Thursday	10/28		Church building closed due to electrical repair
Sunday	10/31	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	10/31	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	10/31	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

TOWN HALL MEETING—November 14, 2021 Bethany's Session invites you to a **Town Hall Meeting on November 14, 2021** immediately following the 10:00 worship service where the Organ Taskforce will address concerns brought before Session and will be available to answer questions. For a refresher on the information previously presented regarding the Father Willis Organ, ALL of the project documentation is available for your perusal in Bethany's library. Also, if you would like to be part of a committee or a member of Session, we would love to have you! The Property Committee and Stewardship Committee both have open positions. We are also looking for a Clerk of Session. If you feel called to serve and/or would like to offer your talents to Bethany, please contact Bev Murray of the Nominating Committee at 865-8507. Thank you!

FOOTBALL SUNDAY—November 14, 2021 Please join the Spiritual Growth and Congregational Life Committees on 11/14/21 for Football Sunday! Bring your friends, tailgate in the parking lot beforehand, and then join us in the Large Hall to watch the Bills take on the Jets at 1:00. Prefer not to tailgate? The Spiritual Growth Committee will provide pizza and water bottles; the Congregational Life Committee will provide a dessert. Of course, the congregation is encouraged to wear their favorite team shirt or colors to church that day. Questions? Call Carrie Buri (716)390-8941.

SHIPMATES: All are welcome to the Shipmates' November 13 meeting

- Have you ever wondered how Jean Coniber manages to play all those bells when she performs a bell solo in church?
- Have you ever wondered how the musical art form of bell ringing came to be?
- Have you ever wondered how the Bethany bell choir members manage to keep everything straight when playing?

Come to the Bethany sanctuary at 11:00 on Saturday, November 13 for a talk and a bell performance by Bethany's own Jean Coniber. Bring your own lunch to be enjoyed afterward. Dessert will be provided. Free will donation appreciated. Please make your reservation by Nov 7 by calling Linda Wood at 585-621-1896, so we may plan for socially distanced lunch seating and enough dessert.

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 Team:** 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 Chair], [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 Chair], [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