

Celebration of Worship

Bethany Presbyterian Church
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

October 31, 2021
10:00 AM

WE GATHER

BELL PRELUDE

"Celebration"

William A. Payne

The Bethany Celebration Ringers dedicate this music to honor the memory of Sue Blum.
The words of this melody express our shared joy of making music.

God is with us; let us join in celebration, telling of His love in hearts that sing and bells that ring.
God is with us; let us join with all creation, spreading forth the joyful news to all that Christ is King.

Alleluia, ring alleluia! Ring peals of joy, Alleluia! Alleluia, sing alleluia! Sing endless praise, alleluia!

So, if this song within your heart in joy is ringing, filling every corner of your life with boundless love,
give it voice! To others hope and courage bringing, sharing with your song all the love of God above.

WELCOME

GOD'S CHURCH IN ACTION

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Today we celebrate the grace of God,

People: sure as the sunrise and fresh as the morning.

Pastor: So, let us come to worship with anticipation,

People: with hope, with confidence, and with joy.

***HYMN #2**

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, thou incarnate Word,
merciful, mighty Lord,
our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend.

Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear

in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be,
hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.

***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 do not do to another what you would not want done to you. Do not initiate divisions, but rather let us bring peace to our hearts and to the world.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

We acknowledge, Lord God, that we come here this morning with unresolved issues that may include personal animosities, bruised egos, neglected duties, unkept promises, and unexpressed love. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to live responsibly and lovingly. Amen.

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

O Lord our God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Second Timothy 2:8-13

page 967 in the pew Bible

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

ANTHEM

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Alan Smith

Bethany Choir

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, Through the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see;
Only thou art holy, There is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 25:1-13

pages 806,807 in the pew Bible

Pastor: 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 #362**

"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation;
at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning;
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand;
arise, O heirs of glory;
the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption,
and ever be with thee!

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

"My Faithful Heart Rejoices"

Johannes Brahms

***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 Lord, these gifts represent not only our individual sacrifices, but also our mutual caring and concern; for we can do things together that we cannot do separately. Amen.

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

HYMN #39

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Bolero de Concert”

Lefebure-Wely

CHILDCARE is available.

Today's flowers on the Communion Table are given in loving memory of Sue Blum by the Celebration Ringers. Sue was a long-time bell ringer at Bethany and her musical gifts were truly a gift from God. Today we honor and celebrate our friendship with Sue.

THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE: David Covert, Craig Foreman, Mike Haskins, Sue Kretovic, Gail Kuhner, Cindi Sywulski

LAY LITURGIST: Polly McCubbin

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Lisa Adaskin, 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 31 is the Edgerton neighborhood.

BETHANY CALENDAR

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|-----------|-------|----------|---|
| Sunday | 10/31 | 9 am | Present Word - (Small Hall) |
| Sunday | 10/31 | 10 am | Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast) |
| Sunday | 10/31 | 11:30 am | Contemporary Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast) |
| Sunday | 10/31 | 11:15 am | Sunday School |
| Monday | 11/1 | 7 pm | Stephen Ministers – (Large Hall) |
| Tuesday | 11/2 | 10 am | Belles & Beaux – (Sanctuary) |
| Wednesday | 11/3 | 10:30 am | Staff meeting – (Library) |
| Wednesday | 11/3 | 6:30 pm | Worship & Music – (Library) |
| Wednesday | 10/6 | 7:30 pm | Celebration Ringers – (Sanctuary) |
| Thursday | 10/7 | 7:15 pm | Choir - (Sanctuary) |
| Saturday | 11/6 | 9 am | Men’s Club Breakfast – (Sawyer Park) |
| Sunday | 11/7 | 9 am | Present Word - (Small Hall) |
| Sunday | 11/7 | 10 am | Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast) |
| Sunday | 11/7 | 11:15 am | Sunday School |
| Sunday | 11/7 | 12 pm | Session – (Zoom) |
| Sunday | 11/7 | 7 pm | Spirituality and Social Justice Group – (Zoom) |

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

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.

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 Task force 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.

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 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