

# Celebration of Worship

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Bethany Presbyterian Church  
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

**September 26, 2021**

Worship  
10:00 AM

## WE GATHER

**PRELUDE**

“Modal”

Alec Rowley

**WELCOME**

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY** – Gary Gullo and Nancy Cowan

**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 #267**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Come, Christians, join to sing:  
Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King:  
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice,  
before his throne rejoice;  
praise is his gracious choice:  
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high:  
Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky:  
Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend;  
to us he'll condescend;  
his love shall never end:  
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again:  
Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain:  
Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore  
his goodness we'll adore,

singing forevermore:  
Alleluia! Amen!

**\*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)**

**Dear Lord, thank you for how you continue to transform each of us. Please forgive us when we represent you poorly. We need to be brave and ask you not to relieve us of the tough times or long waits for answers, but help us to change through them. We ask you to be a part of how we tell our story. Lord we also ask you to reveal to us how we can use our calling and discover the “good works” you created in each of us. Amen.**

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

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of Jesus Christ,

**People: in whom we have redemption through the forgiveness of sins. 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.]

**BIBLE PRESENTATIONS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 124

page 498 in the pew Bible

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

**ANTHEM**

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

Hilary Tadman-Robin

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 9:38-50

pages 821,822 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 #321**

“The Church’s One Foundation” (vs. 1-4)

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.

Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.

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.

Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore:  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

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

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

“Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee”  
Soloist, Sarah Schexnayder

Eric Thiman

**\*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, we believe in the power of prayer; we believe in the power of the word; and we believe in the power of sharing. Amen.**

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

**\*HYMN #307**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift of thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

“Amazing Grace”

Christopher Pardini

**CHILDCARE** is available.

**THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:**

**DEACONS:** Dick Bauman, Sandy Ericson, Brenda Spratt, Beth Thomsen

**LAY LITURGIST:** Cheryl Fisher

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Peg Cameron, Carole (friend of Beth Thomsen), Wilma Chadwick, Wayne Crawford, Donna Hancock, Debbie Leipold (friend of Bev Murray), Melanie (Debbie Haskin's sister), Nancy Ann (friend of Virginia Britton), Richard Platt, Cliff Streams and Helen West.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Seidel family, at the passing of Margaret Seidel.

**Monroe County-wide Prayer Initiative 2021** for the week of September 26th is the Southwedge.

**BETHANY CALENDAR**

Sunday	9/26	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	9/26	11 am	10 am Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	9/26	11:15 am	Sunday School
Sunday	9/26	11:30 am	Contemporary Worship Service - (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Monday	9/27	7 pm	Life Group #2 (Small Hall)
Tuesday	9/28	10 am	Belles & Beaux – (Sanctuary)
Tuesday	9/28	10 am	Personnel Committee – (Large Hall)
Wednesday	9/29	7:30 pm	Celebration Ringers – (Sanctuary)
Thursday	9/30	7:15 pm	Choir meeting - (Sanctuary)
Sunday	10/3	9 am	Present Word - (Small Hall)
Sunday	10/3	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Sunday	10/3	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

**DEB HASKIN'S BOOK SIGNING TODAY IN THE LIBRARY** following worship.

I recently published my book, *Lessons and Reflections*. It was written from the heart with the desire to relate to all my readers. The stories are about relationships and adventures and are told with humor to lighten your hearts and bring a smile to your faces. It speaks of appreciation of God who has created each of us and the nature all around us. The photos in this book are both local to Greece, NY and from my travels. Please stop in, visit and see what my book can do to brighten your day. Paperbacks \$16.

**BOOK STUDY:** Bethany's Spirituality & Social Justice Group would like to make you aware of a book study being offered by Family Promise of Greater Rochester (aka RAIHN).

**Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond**

Wed, September 29 (Part I)

Wed, October 27 (Part II)

Wed, December 1 (Part III)

**7 - 8:30pm on Zoom** (click link to register)

**PEACE AND GLOBAL MISSION COLLECTION October 3, 2021** - On October 3, Bethany will be collecting the annual Peace and Global Mission offering. General Assembly will receive 50% of the donation, Genesee Valley Presbytery will receive 25%, and the Bethany Community and Global Mission Committee has designated the final 25% to be donated to Willow Domestic Violence Center. We will welcome someone from the Center to speak to us about the programs Willow provides to those in need within our community. Willow Domestic Violence Center was formally known as Alternatives for Battered Women. Its mission is "to prevent domestic violence and ensure every survivor has access to the services and supports needed along the journey to a safe and empowered life." Its vision is "a community free from domestic violence, where healthy relationships thrive." The Bethany CGM believes this is an organization worthy of our support.

**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](http://www.bethanyrochester.org)**