

Celebration of Worship

Bethany Presbyterian Church
3000 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616

September 5, 2021

Worship
10:00 AM

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

“Symphony No. 1, Mvt. II

by Vasily Kalinnikov (trans. by Isaiah Williams)

WELCOME

GOD’S CHURCH IN ACTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: As we come to worship,

People: we ask that you will warm our hearts,

Pastor: clear our minds, purify our thoughts, and motivate our wills,

People: through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

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)

Leader: Our lives are consumed by having so much to do,

People: and are so cluttered by things,

Leader: that we are distracted from the things that count most and neglect to cultivate the quality of our lives.

People: Pardon us, we pray, and help us to elevate our priorities and our values. Amen.

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

(Silence)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Fellow believers in Christ, we are pardoned of our sin,

People: and assured of our place as God's children. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF 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 40:4-8

page 446 in the pew Bible

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

ANTHEM

"Christ is the World's True Light"

W.K. Stanton

Vocalists: Kayak Stein, Jeff Tabor

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-13

page 981 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 #408

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

There's a sweet sweet spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expression on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet holy spirit,
sweet heavenly dove,
stay right here with us,
filling us with your love;
and for these blessings
we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know
that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place

There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
“I am going to walk with Jesus all the way.”

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

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)

Realizing that many millions of people around the world are desperately poor, not even having enough to eat and lacking medical care, we give these gifts as a small contribution for the well-being of others. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

Words of Institution

Prayer of Commitment (Unison)

Eternal God, we give thanks for the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. Grant that we may be strengthened in your service to share the good news of the gospel with others. Amen.

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

HYMN #840

“When Peace like a River”

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul;
it is well; it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Cross Rip”

Isaiah Williams

CHILDCARE is not available.

THOSE ASSISTING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:

DEACONS: Craig Foreman, Mike Haskins, Gail Kuhner, Sue Kretovic

LAY LITURGIST: Karen Dobbins

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

Monroe County-wide Prayer Initiative 2021 for the week of September 5th is the Town of Sweden and the Village of Brockport.

BETHANY CALENDAR

Sunday	9/5	10 am	Worship Service – (In person, Zoom, Facebook, Boxcast)
Monday	9/6		Labor Day – Church Building closed
Tuesday	9/7	7:15 pm	Congregational Life – Large Hall
Wednesday	9/8	6:30 pm	Spiritual Growth – (Library)
Thursday	9/9	7 pm	Choir meeting - (Zoom)
Sunday	9/12	11 am	Worship Service in the Park – Greece Canal Park, Millennium Lodge

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

WORSHIP IN THE PARK is almost here! Sunday, September 12 at 11:00 we will come together for food, fellowship and our worship service at Greece Canal Park in the Millennium Lodge. This year we will be asking that you bring your own picnic lunch and beverages. Spiritual Growth will provide individually wrapped frozen treats for dessert. There will be relay races and a mission project thanks to Community and Global Mission, along with Sunday school sign up, and a Town Hall meeting following the service. This service will not be available live through Zoom or Facebook but will be recorded in order to be viewed later. We hope to see you at this special annual event.

TOWN HALL MEETING, PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE: Bethany's Session invites you to a Town Hall Meeting on **September 12, 2021 immediately following the 11:00 Worship Service in the Park.** The meeting will include updates from the Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, Sunday School/youth programming, Contemporary Worship Service and Organ Taskforce. Please bring your thoughts and questions, an open mind and creative solutions as we strive to make Bethany a dynamic and exciting place to worship! 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, Welcoming Committee, and Stewardship Committee 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.

Bethany Presbyterian Women in the Congregation: All women are invited to attend our meeting on **Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00 a. m. in the Large Hall.** The speaker for September will be Rebecca S. Letterman Ph.D. , Professor of Spiritual Formation at Northeastern Seminary. *Dr. Letterman's presentation will focus on the following scripture: "Rahab and Ruth: How Marginalized Women brought God's Goodness to God's People". Sometimes "diversity" feels "threatening" or uncomfortable. This study will explore ways in which women "from the margins" offered God's salvation to God's people, who in turn offered God's salvation to them. It is a prime example of the way diversity actually enriches a faith community.*

SHIPMATES: We welcome the congregation to join us on Saturday, September 18 at 1 pm in the Large Hall. Save the date, please note the change of date from our regular Saturday meeting. Make your reservations with Beth Thomsen e-mail hawaiinnana@gmail.com or 865-7181. Check in with Martha and George Hubbard with your \$2.00 and get set for an interesting program about the architecture of James H. Johnson by Katie Eggers Comeau and Christopher M. Brandt. They spent 18 months exploring Johnson's drawings and slides, interviewing his colleagues and family members, and visiting his buildings. Some of

his designs include the Liberty Pole, the "Mushroom House", Temple Sinai, and St. John the Evangelist Church in the town of Greece. Please join us after a short meeting for coffee and dessert.

PRESENT WORD: The Present Word will resume meeting in person every Sunday at 9:00 am beginning September 19th. What is The Present Word? The Present Word Bible Study is based on a uniform Series, a plan for reading and studying the Bible. The objectives of the series are to help persons increasingly:

1. to know the content of the Bible,
2. to understand the message of the Bible in light of their experiences and relationships, and
3. To be aware of God's self-disclosure, especially God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ, that they may respond in faith and love-to the end that they may know who they are and what human situation means, grow as the children of God rooted in the Christian community, live in the spirit of God in every relationship, fulfill their common discipleship in the world, and abide in the Christian hope.

All are invited to participate in The Present Word on Sundays at 9:00 am in the Small Hall.

Greece CROP Hunger Walk - This year's walk will take place on Sunday September 26th. Walkers will confirm their registration at Aldersgate Church and begin walking anytime between 1:30 and 2:30 pm, choosing either the 0.5 or 2.5-mile route. 25% of funds raised will be donated to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf and 75% will go to CWS for fighting hunger worldwide.

Join Bethany's team or make a donation online here:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/bethany-presbyterian-church>

To make a cash donation, contact Deb Petersen or one of our walkers directly.

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