



*“Lent in a Secular Age:
V. Time to be Great!”*

10:45AM
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS

To trust in Jesus
To love like Jesus
To grow in Jesus
To bring others to Jesus

WORSHIP THE LORD

WE GATHER

PRELUDE **"Near the Cross" by William H. Doane** **Nadina Robusto, Harp**
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WELCOME **Pastor Brian Janssen**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE WREATH

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please Stand*) **Pastor Ellen Dawson**

O Lord my God, how great you are! You are clothed with honor and majesty.
O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.
You make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN (*Please Stand*) **"Be Thou My Vision"** **No. 502**

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1 Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art--
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.

3 High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

O God, who sent Christ to make intercession, have mercy on us as we confess our sin. He was oppressed; we afflict others. He was judged; we declare others unworthy. He was stricken; we cause others pain. He was put to death; we likewise destroy the innocent. Numbered with sinners, he bore our transgressions. Through Christ make us righteous, so that in him we can obey you. *Silent Prayer of Confession.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **Praise God! Amen.**

RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

“Gloria Patri”

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ. Let us be at peace with one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all...**and also with you.**
The kids can come forward for the Children’s Sermon as you all take a moment to share the peace of Christ with those around you.

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Debby Hayes

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

FIRST READING**2 Corinthians 5:11-15****Pastor Ellen Dawson**

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade people, but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

SECOND READING**Mark 10:35-45****Pastor Brian Janssen**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.**SERMON "Lent in a Secular Age: V. Time to be Great!" Pastor Brian Janssen****WE RESPOND****THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****THE OFFERTORY "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr Jason W. Krug
Bethany Staff Hand Bell Choir**

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THE RESPONSE *(Please Stand)***"Doxology"**

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Please Stand)***ANNOUNCEMENTS****PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT**HYMN** *(Please Stand)***"Take My Life and Let It Be"****No. 466**

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1 Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love, at the impulse of thy love.

2 Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee; take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King, always, only, for my King.

3 Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for thee; take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold, not a mite would I withhold.

4 Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

BENEDICTION *(Please Stand)***Pastor Brian Janssen****POSTLUDE**

WELCOME TO BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are delighted to have you in worship with us today!

FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - A Nursery Room, under the guidance of Nursery Director, Melina Robinson, is across the hall from the pulpit side of the Sanctuary. It is equipped with a speaker system from the sanctuary so any parent(s) who wishes to stay with their child(ren) in the nursery can hear the worship service. **A Cry Room** is at the rear of the Sanctuary – entry is through a door in the Narthex near the usher's table. *We encourage you to use these rooms as needed.*

Worship Bags are available for children to use during the worship service. The bags can be found at the Usher's Desk.

Sound amplification devices are available to those who might need or want to use them. Our ushers are available to help with any needs that you have during worship.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are presented by

Tony Wasson in honor of his Stepfather, Edward Lafferty,
who passed away 2 years ago this month.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Deb Pyle and family on the death of her husband, Dick Pyle, on March 14, 2024.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

PALM SUNDAY – Next Sunday 3/24

Our Men's Ministry will be serving their annual Lenten Breakfast in the Great Room. We hope you can join us for a free, delicious breakfast.

The Deacons will be hosting Vitalant again for a Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating. The need is urgent. Appointments can be made on Vitalant's website- vitalant.org.

CREATION VBS – March 21 at 10AM - Rome wasn't built in a day and neither is Bethany's VBS! It's time to get the crafters together and start making some awesome decor for SCUBA - this year's Vacation Bible School theme! Join Celina and Meagan as they host Creation VBS every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 10- 12PM in The Youth Lounge. This invitation is open, anyone can come when their schedule has an opening. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help, ability to use a stapler, scissors and a hot glue gun. We hope to see you there!

ACTIVITIES DURING LENT

During the season of Lent, we have organized the weeks according to the "7 Acts of Mercy," a list of actions Jesus gave as a directive to his disciples in Matthew 25 (and other places in Scripture). They are based on Jesus' teachings when he speaks of the judgment of the nations and are focused on the physical needs of others.

Week 6 – March 18th- 24th

VISIT THE IMPRISONED *Matthew 25:36*

This week, consider how you can support the Foundation of HOPE program at the Allegheny County Jail (www.foundationofhope.org). Pray for them or one of the many national programs that minister to children and families of people who have been incarcerated.

Week 7 – March 25th - 30th

VISIT THE SICK *Matthew 25:36*

This week, you can learn how to make a prayer shawl by looking up a pattern online (if you knit or crochet). The prayer shawl can then be given to one of our members who are unable to attend worship. If you're not a knitter, reach out to someone you know who is a caregiver or nurse and ask how you can pray for them!

MEN'S RETREAT at Oglebay, May 3-4. It is now time to not only save the date for the Bethany Men's Retreat but to also decide this year you plan to attend! Our accommodations will include a one-night stay (Double Occupancy) at Oglebay's Wilson Lodge, breakfast and 2 rounds of golf (optional) at the following rates:

Lodging only - \$111.08

Lodging and 1 round of golf - \$184.65

Lodging and 2 rounds of golf - \$258.21

Some other things to do

Oglebay Park -A large, public park with gardens, museums, a zoo, and outdoor activities including golf and hiking.

Good Zoo -Part of Oglebay Park, this zoo features various animal exhibits, including some rare and endangered species.

Wheeling Park -A community park offering golf, ice skating, swimming pools, and picnic areas. (4.6 miles from the hotel)

Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum -A museum dedicated to the preservation of toys and trains, offering exhibits across various time periods. (6.2 miles from the hotel location)

Wheeling Heritage Trail-A scenic walking and biking trail that runs along the Ohio River, offering beautiful views and a peaceful environment.

Email Alec Heiskell at heiskella@protonmail.com or let the office know you are interested.

BYG: UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BETHANY YOUTH GROUP. All 6th - 12th graders are invited to join us every Sunday! Mark your calendars for these events!

Sunday March 17th, 5:00pm-6:30pm All-The-Days Party! Dress up as your favorite holiday, and bring your favorite holiday dish - we are celebrating ALL of the holidays!! Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, and even random National Holidays - join us for our All-the- Days party!

Sunday March 24th, 5:00pm-6:30pm, BYG Group Night in the Youth Lounge - this week is Easter themed! We will have an Easter Egg Hunt (with a youth group twist of course), and talk all about Easter! Come join us for a great way to kick off Holy Week and get ready for Easter.

Sunday March 31st - Easter! BYG will NOT be meeting on Easter.

Save the Date for Mini Golf on Sunday April 14th!

Students & Parents, if you haven't already, you can join our Remind for text updates about BYG! Text the message @byg2024 to the phone number 81010 -

If you have any issues just contact Abbie.

VBS - Go on an undersea adventure with us to "SCUBA VBS - Diving Into Friendship with God"! For children age 4 through entering 5th grade. June 17-21 from 9am - noon. Youth & adult volunteers are needed! Please contact Celina Farabaugh, if you have any questions or to sign up as a volunteer, at cfarabaugh19@gmail.com or 724-554-6370.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 22, 2024 --The Annual Bethany Church Golf Outing at Ft. Cherry Golf Club. (The Saturday after Father's Day.)

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

HELP WANTED - Regular Greeters at the Front Door of the church (Washington Ave. side). We are looking for people who can help for 15-20 minutes before church to welcome people as they come in. It's a great way to be involved without a large time commitment. Email membership@bethanypresby.org if you can help or for more information.

DONATIONS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL items have been set up in The Welcome Center. The items we are collecting will be used to create decorations. If you happen to have any of the following items at home that you're not using, feel free to donate them. Please note; unless specifically discussed with Celina or Meagan donated items will not be returned.

- Cardboard Rolls from: Paper Towels, toilet paper, vinyl, aluminum foil, cling wrap, wrapping paper, etc.
- Clean Pool Noodles
- Cupcake liners - any size
- Sea shells, sand dollars, coral
- Crepe Paper Streamers in shades of green
- Small to Medium shallow sized boxes
- Underwater trinkets/ scuba or snorkeling gear

SARRIS CANDY –The Sarris Candy sales proceeds for March are going to the Neighborhood Academy.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A listing of our Sunday School Classes can be found on the screens in the Welcome Center.

WORSHIP AND WONDER – Children 4 years old through 2nd grade are welcome to follow the Worship and Wonder Teachers to the classroom (rm 234) after the Children’s sermon each week during our 10:45AM service. All helpers need to be in 6th grade and above. Helpers also need to pre-register by calling Debby Hayes at 412-266-0982.

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MARCH 10, 2024:

	2024 YTD (\$)	2023 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 101,177	111,626	\$ (10,449)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	68,750	47,918	20,833
Investment Income **	7,083	4,451	2,632
Total General Fund Income	\$ 177,009	\$163,994	\$ 13,015
Year to Date Budget	176,744		
+/- Budget	\$ 265		

*For purposes of this report, any prepaid pledges have been spread over 52 weeks. ** Investment income is updated monthly upon receipt of investment statements. A friendly reminder from the Stewardship team, please write the amount of your giving on the outside of the envelope when turning in your offering. This helps make the job of those counting much easier.

MARCH SPECIAL OFFERING - One Great Hour of Sharing

The special offering envelope for March supports the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing Collection. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for One Great Hour of Sharing on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Mar 17

8:15AM and 10:45AM– Worship
9:30AM – Sunday School
12:00PM- Confirmation Class
5:00PM – BYG

Monday, Mar 18

5:00PM – Preschool Open House
6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout
7:00PM – Deacon Meeting

Tuesday, Mar 19

6:30PM – Men’s Huddle
7:00PM – Grief Class Book Study
7:00PM – Coed Dart Ball
7:00PM - ALANON

Wednesday, Mar 20

11:30AM – Knitters
7:00PM – Choir
7:00PM - Scouts

Thursday, Mar 21

9:00AM – Quilters
10:00AM – Creation VBS
12:00PM – Golden Oldies
12:00PM – Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom Service
7:00PM – Dart Ball
7:30PM - AA

Friday, Mar 22

Saturday, Mar 23

Confirmation Class Retreat
Diaper Bank
11:30AM - Knitters

Sunday, Mar 24 - PALM SUNDAY

Lenten Breakfast

Blood Drive

8:15AM and 10:45AM– Worship
9:30AM – Sunday School
12:00PM- Confirmation Class
5:00PM – BYG

HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY 3/28 – Worship and Communion at 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY 3/29 – Tenebrae Service at 7:00PM

EASTER SERVICES 3/31 – 7AM at Melrose Cemetery

8:15AM and 10:45AM in the Sanctuary