



“Lent in a Secular Age: II. Time to Get Lost”

10:45AM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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 "Am I a Soldier of the Cross/Meditation on Arlington" by Fred Bock
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WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

EXTINGUISHING OF THE WREATH

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please Stand*)

Pastor Ellen Dawson

Ashes have been smeared and sins have been confessed...

We follow our faithful Lord.

These times, they are troubling. This journey, it is hard...

We follow our faithful Lord.

It is God who sustains, not the temptations of this world...

We follow our faithful Lord.

In the Lord is our trust, our protection from harm...

We follow our faithful Lord.

Come, let us worship the One whom we serve...

We follow our faithful Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN (*Please Stand*) "We Come, O Christ, To You" vs 1-4 **No. 110**

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1 We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man; by whom all things consist, in whom all life began: in you alone we live and move, and have our being in your love.

2 You are the Way to God, your blood our ransom paid; in you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid; before the throne absolved we stand: your love has met your law's demand.

3 You are the living Truth, all wisdom dwells in you, the source of every skill, the one eternal True! O great I Am! in you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

4 You only are true Life, to know you is to live the more abundant life that earth can never give. O risen Lord! we live in you: in us each day your life renew!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

God of compassion and mercy, look with favor upon us as we confess our sins. Our faith is weak in the face of crisis. Our hope collapses when we are threatened or maligned. We seek our own safety and abandon those you love. We trust in objects we can create and control. We speak much and risk little. But you, O God, have given your promise that you will never forsake us. Forgive our failure to take you at your word.

Silent Prayer of Confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's promises rest on grace and guaranteed to all who believe in Christ. The Lord said, "I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations." Trusting in the covenant promises God, we can accept the righteousness of God bestowed to us in Christ. Thankful for grace, we know and believe our sins are forgiven. **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 ANTHEM

"Jesus to the Wilderness"

by Michael Beford

Sunday School Singers and Soloist, Jenna Foltz

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

FIRST READING

Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he did not despise or abhor

the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me
but heard when I cried to him.
From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-11

Pastor Brian Janssen

...even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Lent in a Secular Age: II. Time to Get Lost”

Pastor Brian Janssen

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"None Other Lamb" by Craig Courtney

Vocal Duet: Ruth Doyle and Nadina Robusto

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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)*

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

No. 252

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1 Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

2 As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win, O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.

3 As you did hunger and did thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and so to live by your most holy Word.

4 And thro' these days of penitence, and thro' your Passiontide, forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

5 Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain, an Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!

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 our Sanctuary this morning are given

by Dick and Deb Pyle in memory of their fathers, Leonard Livingston and Frank Pyle.

Thank you for your prayers, cards ad telephone calls during my illness. A special thank you goes to Pastor Brian for his visits. It was really appreciated. Blessings, Tom and Carole Aspinall.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

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. You may pick up a complete list on the Lenten Resources Table in the Welcome Center.

Week 3: February 26th - March 3rd

BURY THE DEAD *Genesis 3:19, Romans 6:3-4, Sirach 38:16*

Pastor Brian's Class, *The Good Funeral*, will be held this Wednesday, February 28th at 12:00pm. Pastor Brian will be teaching about the theology of our traditions surrounding death, funerals, and burials. A light lunch is being served, so we do request your RSVP (online or call the office). This week, you are also encouraged to visit the grave of a friend or loved one, or reach out to someone you know who may be grieving.

Week 4: March 4th - 10th

WELCOME THE STRANGER *Matthew 25:35*

This week, make an effort to introduce yourself to someone in your neighborhood: the person who walks their dog past your house, the mail carrier, a cashier, or an actual neighbor you haven't met yet. Also, be aware of the many refugees who have come to our city and learn more about the ministries that support them such as Hello Neighbor (www.helloneighbor.io) and Thrive Pittsburgh (www.thrivepittsburgh.org).

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

TODAY - 5:00pm-6:30pm BYG Group Night in the Youth Lounge! Join us for a **Cereal Bar** - mix up all your favorites, or just have a simple bowl of a classic cereal, either way you can make your perfect bowl of cereal!! We will be having small group discussions on God's Promises!

Sunday March 3rd, Bowl for the chance to win the first annual BYG bowling championship and earn the coveted BYG Bowling Trophy - Contact Abbie for more information!

Sunday March 10th, 5:00pm-6:30pm BYG Group Night in the Youth Lounge! This weeks' Group Night is BYG Choice! We will discuss the topic and eat the food that YOU chose on February 18th!

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, 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.

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!

BLOOD DRIVE – Sunday, March 24. The Deacons will be hosting Vitalant again for a Blood Drive on Palm Sunday, 3/24. Please consider donating. The need is urgent. Appointments can be made on Vitalant's website- vitalant.org.

MEN'S RETREAT at Oglebay, May 3-4. Contact Alec Heiskell for additional information.

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.

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.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONS – The Fellowship of Prayer is targeting prayers each month for missions we support. For the month of February, please pray for James and Zoe Williams, who work with Servant Partners to encourage economic dev./plant churches in Africa; and for the Fisher House which provides a “home away from home” at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System’s in Oakland.

SARRIS CANDY –The Sarris Candy sales proceeds for February are going to the Washington City Mission “Hope For Homeless Women Capital Campaign”. This Campaign is to raise funds for the construction of a 50-bed shelter for Homeless Women. The cost is \$6.4M; however, \$4M has already been raised and ground breaking is scheduled for May 2024. This is an urgent need for the City Mission as they currently only have a 14-bed Women’s Shelter and have 70 women on their waiting list. The City Mission commissioned a Needs Assessment in 2022 and it was determined that the Southwestern PA area does not have the facilities needed to offer rehabilitative programming to the growing population of homeless women that enables them to move from homelessness to independence. 80% of women report trauma and abuse as their main cause of homelessness and homeless women have higher rates of mental illness than homeless men and report more suicidal thoughts and attempts. Washington City Mission has had a high rate of success with their current 14-bed shelter as in 2021 81% of the homeless women they served left the shelter with sustainable housing, 61% increased their level of employability, 61% improved their financial stability and 50% had been alcohol and drug-free for the entire duration of their stay. They feel they can be even more effective with a larger facility. Bethany supports all programs of the Washington City Mission monthly; however, we would like to designate the February Sarris Sales to this specific project. Please stop by the candy cart and enjoy some chocolate and/or drop off a donation for this campaign.

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 FEBRUARY 18, 2024:

| | 2024 YTD (\$) | 2023 YTD (\$) | +/- (\$) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Contributions* | \$ 71,291 | 77,809 | \$ (6,518) |
| General Fund Subsidies (Transfers) | 48,125 | 33,542 | 14,583 |
| Investment Income ** | (1,616) | 9,237 | (10,853) |
| Total General Fund Income | \$ 117,800 | \$120,588 | \$ (2,788) |
| Year to Date Budget | 123,279 | | |
| +/- Budget | \$ (5,479) | | |

*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.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING - PER CAPITA The special offering envelope for February supports the 2024 Per Capita balance. This collection helps to defray the Per Capita cost that Bethany is required to remit to the Presbytery. The 2024 Per Capita amount is \$36.35. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Per Capita" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for Per Capita on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to the Per Capita Offering!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Feb 25

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

Monday, Feb 26

6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout
7:00PM – Session Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 27

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

Wednesday, Feb 28

11:30AM – Knitters
12:00PM – Lenten Class: The Good Funeral
7:00PM – Choir
7:00PM - Scouts

Thursday, Feb 29

9:00AM – Quilters
12:00PM - Rotary
6:30PM - Bloom
7:00PM – Dart Ball
7:30PM - AA

Friday, Mar 1

Saturday, Mar 2

UPWARD YEAR-END CELEBRATION
11:30AM - Knitters

Sunday, Mar 3

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