



CANTATA

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CANTATA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025
10:45AM

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 "He is Born, the Divine Christ Child; Il Est Ne, le Devin Enfant"
arr. by Jeff Perks; cpr J.P. Productions

WELCOME

Pastor Larry Ruby

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please Stand*)

Pastor Larry Ruby

Please stand if you are able and join in the call to worship.

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!

People: For the Lord is near; God's glory is breaking forth among us.

Leader: The desert blooms, the weak find strength, and the fearful are lifted up.

People: Our God comes with healing and with joy for all creation.

Leader: Let us open our hearts to God's renewing presence.

People: We come to worship the God of joy, hope, and everlasting grace. Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

Please be seated.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – Candle of Joy **Denise, Michael and Logan Leigh**

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

"What Child Is This"

No. 184

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1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus 1: This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. [Chorus 2]

Chorus 2: Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Chorus 3]

Chorus 3: Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

God of grace and joy, we confess that we have not always lived as your people. We lose sight of your presence and grow impatient in our waiting. We cling to worry more than to your promises, and we allow the noise of our lives to drown out your good news. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hearts, restore our joy, and open our lives to the coming of Christ, that we may walk in your light and share your love with the world. Amen. *Silent Confession*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Larry Ruby

Hear the good news: The prophet declares that the wilderness shall rejoice and blossom, and the weak shall be made strong. In Jesus Christ, God has come to renew creation and forgive sin. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and we are being made new. Thanks be to God!**

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

Pastor Larry Ruby

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 Larry Ruby

CANTATA

"AND GLORY SHONE AROUND"

by Lloyd Larson and Douglas E. Wager; Orchestration by Brant Adams; cpr 2008
Lorenz Publishing

"Who Is This King of Glory"

Lyrics by Charlotte Lee; Music by Douglas E. Wagner

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Lyrics attr. Ambrose of Milan; Music by Lloyd Larson

"A Stable in Bethlehem"

*Lyrics attr. to Robert Croo, William C. Dix, and Charlotte Lee;
Music by Douglas E. Wagner*

"Gloria! To God Sing Gloria!"

by Lloyd Larson

"No Candle Was There"

Lyrics by Frances M. Gostling; Music by Douglas E. Wagner

"Love's Perfect Light"

Lyrics by William C. Dix and John H. Hopkins, Jr.; Music by Lloyd Larson

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"The Glory of the Lord"

*Music by Lloyd Larson; And the Glory of the Lord from "The Messiah" by G.F. Handel; Orchestration by Brant Adams; cpr 2008
Lorenz Publishing*

The Congregation is invited to sing along during Joy To the World and Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Joy to the World!

Music by Lowell Mason; Text: Isaac Watts

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King; let every heart
prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and
heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace; and makes the nations prove the glories
of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and
wonders, wonders of His love.**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Music by Felix Mendelssohn; Text by Charles Wesley

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and
life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us
second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray this in the name of our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying... 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)

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

No. 198

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1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE Gloria! To God Sing Gloria!"

(excerpt) by Lloyd Larson; Orchestration by Brant Adams; cpr 2008 Lorenz Publishing

POSTLUDE "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

with O Heiland, Reiss Die Himmel Auf; Setting by J. Wayne Kerr; cpr 2010 Concordia Publishing House

WELCOME TO BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are delighted to have you in worship with us this morning!

FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - A Nursery Room 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.

There is no Worship and Wonder today. Children will sit with their families during the Cantata service.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Today's ushers are Deb Pyle, Edgar Shaffer, Lauren and Matt Stark.

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Jim and Judy Davidson in honor of Judy's mother, Dorothy Haderland. The flowers are also presented by Cheryl McCalmon and Donna Kirsopp for their mother, Lois Kirsopp to celebrate a life well lived.

Christmas Eve service times will be 5:00pm for the Family service and 7:00pm for the Candlelight service.

A warm welcome to all of our musicians; we appreciate you sharing your talents with us today!

Abigail Tuffiash is a professional freelance musician who currently resides in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. In addition to various small ensemble and solo performances as a flutist, she has maintained a flourishing private teaching studio for the past 24 years. Abigail has shared sacred works in many churches, as flutist, cantor, and vocalist. She serves as a cantor for special services, Masses, and also participates as a member of the Regina Coeli Parish schola.

Nicholas Reidmiller, a recent graduate of WLU, instructs and writes for various marching band programs in the Mid Ohio Valley. He spends his free time performing and writing music, from chamber repertoire to the DIY underground scene.

Caitlyn Mooty is a timpanist and percussionist, currently studying at Duquesne University under James Benoit, Principal Timpanist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Christopher Allen, Associate Principal Timpanist and Section Percussion in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Lauren Rudzinkas teaches trombone at the University of Akron and is the General Manager of the International Women's Brass Conference. An internationally acclaimed artist, Rudzinkas performs with orchestras, chamber groups, jazz ensembles, and is a touring/recording artist with groundbreaking ensemble Calypsus Brass. To learn more, visit www.laurenrudzinkas.com

Special Thanks

A special thanks to all the participants in our Cantata this year- you've worked so hard and we appreciate your time and dedication to glorifying God with us at Bethany Presbyterian Church. A shout out to our leaders, (both in our township and church), that have joined in to celebrate, demonstrating how great leaders also serve- We are grateful to have Mayor Betty Copeland, as well as our pastor, Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen, singing with us. We extend our gratitude to Red Caiman Recording Studio for joining us this year, and sharing their professional gifts of sound technology and recording the Cantata for our choir. Many thanks to all of the volunteers that joined in our choir, committing several hours of rehearsal time to prepare, to the musicians that shared their gifts on instruments and their time preparing, to our youth that read Scripture, to the tech that helped with sound and video, to our clerical and custodial staff for all the help with set up, promotion, and programming to make the Cantata possible to share in worship today. It certainly is a deep joy to worship through music together. Thank you!!

Cantata List of participants

Choir

Soprano

Maxine Berton
Mayor Betty Copeland
Sheri Darpino
Ruth Doyle
Carrie Emerson
Rebecca Findley
Jackie Nixon
Elizabeth Onyabe
Jean Roemer
Sandy Scheer

Alto

Susan Anderson
Debbie Gossic
Marlene Haley
Karen Harkins
Bonnie Miller
Barbara Mours
Connie Segeleon
Priyanka Sepura

Tenor

Caleb Auldrige
Thomas Cutler
Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen
Tim Nagy
Michael Talerico

Bass

Dale Anderson
Joe Findley
Joseph Oyler
Bob Scheer
Jeff Smith
Aaron Stout

Readers

Jenna Foltz
Michael Foltz
Asher Stark
Brody Stark
Amelia Sunderlin
Sadie Sunderlin
Clark Julius

Darcy Julius
Charlotte Gilmore
Rachel Sepura
Abbie Gardner
Nadina Robusto

Recording Engineer
Red Caiman Studios

Sanctuary Sound
Mike Segeleon

Orchestra
Flute
Abigail Tuffiash
Clarinet

Colleen Jarrett
Bass Clarinet
Abbie Gardner
Cello
Hope Trotta
Trumpets
Matthew Eisenreich
Matthew Nelson
Trombone
Dr. Lauren Rudzinskis
Tuba
Scott Eisenreich
Percussion
Nicholas Reidmiller
Timpani
Caitlyn Mooty

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

BRIDGEVILLE AREA FOOD BANK ANGEL TREE – The Food Bank is asking for gifts (approximately \$20) for the children of the families that are assisted by our Food Bank. Should you desire to take an angel, sign-ups will be in the Welcome Center by the Tree so please **sign the list beside the number on your angel** (so that we will know who has committed), and RETURN the UNWRAPPED gift by TODAY December 14th **with the angel attached to the gift.** Thank you and Blessings!

MEN'S ADVENT BREAKFAST - Please join us for the Men's Advent Breakfast TODAY after the first and second service, and then join us in worship for the Cantata at the 10:45 service! The Bethany Choir and guest musicians are excited to share, "And Glory Shone Around," by Lloyd Larson and Douglas E. Wagner to glorify God in our worship!

MEMBERSHIP TEAM HOT CHOCOLATE – The Membership Team is holding a hot chocolate bar after each service on Dec. 21st. Come join us for a cup of hot chocolate, some cookies and fellowship!

BETHANY DEACONS BACKPACK DRIVE - The Bethany Deacons are hosting another backpack drive to gift to the Southwood Boy's home. These bags will be gifted to every new admission throughout the 2026 year. **You can donate until Dec. 25th!** We are asking for \$20 per backpack. You will be supporting the purchasing of the backpack and the essential items we provided them with: socks, towels, toothbrush, shampoo and more! All items are purchased and put together by the Deacons. Cash or checks with **"backpack"** in the memo are accepted. Please put cash in a labeled envelope and place in the offering plate, or give to Sarah Paviol or Edgar Shafer.

BYG DECEMBER EVENTS - Sunday December 21st - Progressive Dinner - We will meet at the church at 4pm. We will stop at various volunteer's houses and have multiple courses that include snacks, sides, entrees, and desserts. This event will serve as our

Christmas party, so bring an item from home (or an item purchased for less than \$5), to participate in our White Elephant Gift Exchange. Christmas PJs and festive attire are highly encouraged!! We will NOT meet Sunday December 28th
Make sure to stop in the Welcome Center and grab January and February's schedules!

PRESCHOOL GINGERBREAD CONTEST - The Preschool 4 year old's class with Mrs. Rubritz won 1st place in the Preschool/Kindergarten category in the Pittsburgh Gingerbread House Competition! The house will be on display downtown until New Year's Eve. *"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child."*



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION - The 8th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will be held Monday, January 19, 2026 at Bethany Presbyterian Church at 6:30pm. The musical program includes a brief message, adult and youth community service awards, and community prayers. All are welcome to attend!

JENNA'S 2ND ANNUAL JOY DRIVE FOR LIGHT OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION - All donations will be going to the Light of Life Rescue Mission which transforms lives through the love of Christ by providing food, shelter, and hope to men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, poverty or addiction. Please drop off donations in the bin in the Welcome Center.

UPWARD BASKETBALL - Upward Basketball at Bethany begins again in January! We have a record number of players registered this year. 306 players, ages K5 through 2nd grade, will be taking to the courts with their first practices the week of January 12th. Our first game day is Saturday, January 24th, and the last game day is Saturday, February 28th.

If you can give us an hour or two, or more, on a game day to help manage this amazing program, please consider helping us. We have a variety of ways you can help - from being on the courts as a referee, to running the scoreboard and clock, to making sure

the players get their snack after their games. Please contact Beckie Price or Mike Suchoza for more information, or to let us know of your availability to help. Beckie can be emailed at upward@bethanypresby.org. Thank you!

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CHURCH FINANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Thank you for your continued support.

	2025 YTD (\$)	2024 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 488,580	\$ 502,416	\$(13,835)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	310,015	313,250	(3,235)
Investment Income **	13,609	36,284	(22,675)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 812,204	\$ 851,950	\$(39,745)
Year to Date Budget	863,329		
+/- Budget	\$ (51,125)		

*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.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”. 1 Peter 4:10 calls us to action to share with others our God given talents and blessings. Let us receive His grace and strength so that we may glorify Him and serve generously.

December Special Offering – Christmas Joy / Mission Flights International

The special offering envelope for December supports the Christmas Joy offering. 50% of this collection supports the Presbytery Christmas Joy offering which helps current and retired church workers in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. The other 50% will support Missionary Flights International (MFI), a faith based nonprofit mission aviation organization operating flights between Florida and areas of need in the Caribbean. MFI’s mission is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in partnership with Bible-centered missions by providing reliable transportation and logistics service. MFI flies missionaries, their families, and household effects to and from the field. MFI also transports work teams and their equipment for short-term ministry. MFI receives mail and cargo for mission work that the staff handles with care and delivers as soon as possible.

As the end of the year approaches, please keep in mind that all contributions for 2025 must be received by the church no later than December 31, 2025. IRS general rules state that a check placed in the church offering plate in January 2026 cannot be recorded as a 2025 contribution, even if the check has been dated 2025. The only exception to this rule would be for contributions that are mailed and postmarked in 2025. These contributions would be deductible in 2025 even though the contributions were not received until 2026.



QR Code
for online
giving

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, December 14

CANTATA at 10:45 Service

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00AM - Advent Breakfast after both services

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship

9:30AM - Sunday School

Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service

Monday, December 15

6:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, December 16

7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, December 17

11:30AM – Knitters

12:30PM - Hand Chimes

6:30PM – Troop 2 Scouts

7:00PM – Choir Practice

Thursday, December 18

9:00AM - Quilters

12:00PM - Rotary

6:30PM - Bloom

7:00PM - Dartball

7:30 - AA

Friday, December 19

Saturday, December 20

11:00AM – Knitters

Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship

9:30AM - Sunday School

4:00PM - BYG Progressive Dinner and Christmas Party
Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service