



“If You Love Me...”

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026
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

"Nearer My God To Thee"

Bethany Chime Choir

by Sarah F. Adams and Lowell Mason; arr. Margaret Tucker; cpr 2001 Choristers Guild

WELCOME

Pastor Larry Ruby

EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN WREATH

Pastor Brian Janssen

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please Stand*)

Pastor Brian Janssen

Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers,

Loved ones in all shapes and sizes,

Come and worship.

Loud singers and quiet hummers,

Quick learners and patient teachers,

Ocean surfers and mountain climbers,

Come and worship.

Whether you feel younger than springtime or older than the hills,

Come and worship.

We who go faster than the speed of light or slower than molasses,

Come and worship.

On this special, holy day,

Come and worship.

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

"O Come to Me, The Master Said"

No.346

1 O come to me, the Master said, my Father knows your need; and I shall be, the Master said, your bread of life indeed. By faith in him we live and grow and share the broken bread, and all his love and goodness know, for so the Master said.

2 Abide in me, the Master said, the true and living vine; my life shall be, the Master said, poured out for you as wine. His body to the cross he gave, his blood he freely shed, who came in love to seek and save, for so the Master said.

3 Believe in me, the Master said, for I have called you friends, and yours shall be, the Master said, the life that never ends. And so, with sin and sorrow past, when death itself is dead, the Lord shall raise us up at last, for so the Master said.

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Please be seated*)

Pastor Brian Janssen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Brian Janssen

Faithful God, you weave so many wonderful people into our lives: fathers and mothers, children and youth, friends and neighbors, teachers and others. Yet do we stop to acknowledge them as blessings from God? Do we say a word of thanks or whisper a prayer of gratitude? Have we told our appreciation, written a word of encouragement, sung their praises? Faithful God, forgive us for taking anyone for granted. Give us eyes to see the miracles around us. Give us hearts that know you care for each and every one. Give us voices to sing our thanks. Amen. *Silent Confession*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Brian Janssen

Even in our moments of doubt, our lack of faith, and the blindness which means we fail to see God amongst us, God is still at work. God is still healing. God is still forgiving. Even when you fail to see God, God still sees you and still loves you. Sisters and brothers, your 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

Pastor Brian Janssen

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 Brian Janssen

FIRST READING

Psalm 63:1-5

Pastor Brian Janssen

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

SECOND READING

John 14:15-23

Pastor Larry Ruby

If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot

accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him. Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"If You Love Me..."

Pastor Larry Ruby

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor Larry Ruby

We believe God created families, small communities where we learn to love up close, celebrate life around the table meal, pray through difficulties, discover that we are children of God. We believe God created humans not to be alone, but to live in relationship as friends, partners and companions. We believe God sent Jesus so we could see the heights and depths of love, know that we have a second chance, discover that in loving service the world and our lives become better. We believe God delights in our laughter, rejoices in our kindness, celebrates our faithfulness. We believe God made us miracles and surrounds us with reminders, including this blessed family of faith.

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"God of Grace"

**Bethany Choir
Violin Trio: Karen Harkins
Jean Roemer
Bob Scheer**

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Jonathan Rea; arr. Lloyd Larson; cpr 2003 God of Grace

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 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)* **"God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian"** **No. 149**

1 God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove, breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love: give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace; send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.

2 Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word-made-flesh, Love crucified, teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride: in your tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care; grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.

3 Great Creator, life-bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall, fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all: as you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts oversee its life steadfastly yet not overlook its faults.

4 Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse, deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse: help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim, that our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE

"Grace of God"

Bethany Choir

by Jeff Lippencott and R.C. Sproul; cpr 2017 Ligonier Music

POSTLUDE

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.

WORSHIP AND WONDER is during our 10:45am service! Children will leave with Miss Debby after the Children's Sermon. All kids from ages 3-2nd grade are invited! Teen helpers are to see Miss Debby and she can be reached at 412-266-0982.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Today's ushers are Julia Stewart, Deb Perkins, Deb Pyle, Bill Paviol and Edgar Shaffer.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mike Suchoza and family on the death of his beloved wife, Lynne Suchoza, who passed into the arms of her Lord and Savior on March 13, 2026. A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Bethany Presbyterian Church at 12:00 noon. There will be a reception from 11:00AM - 12:00 noon in the Welcome Center on Thursday before the service.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

VBS – Save the date for VBS 2026 for June 15th – 19th from 9am – 12pm!

MEN'S RETREAT SAVE THE DATE – Mark your calendars for the Men's Retreat at Oglebay Resort for May 8-9th!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION – Preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year is now open on our website! Contact Danielle Gioia at Gioia.preschool@gmail.com with any questions! We are so excited for the coming year!

SOUTHWOOD BOYS EVENT - The Discipleship Team is preparing and delivering a dinner for the Southwood Boys Home on **March 25th**. Dinner prep starts at 1:00pm and volunteers and help are needed! Please contact Gary Phillips at 724-926-2682 if you would like to help! Thank you so much!

BLOOM WITH A TWIST has been canceled for the 26th of March.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE
CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MARCH 15, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 109,920	\$ 123,414	\$(13,494)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	85,855	83,501	2,354
Investment Income **	2,352	2,188	164
Total General Fund Income	\$ 198,127	\$ 209,103	\$(10,976)
Year to Date Budget	196,014		
+/- Budget	\$ 2,113		



QR Code
for online
giving

*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.

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, March 22

5th Sunday of Lent

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service
5:00PM - BYG Group Night

Monday, March 23

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout
6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, March 24

10:00AM – Adult Ukulele
7:00PM - Session Meeting
7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, March 25

11:30AM – Knitters
12:30PM - Hand Chimes
1:00PM – Southwood Boys Dinner Prep
6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts
7:00PM – Choir Practice

Thursday, March 26

9:00AM – Quilters
7:00PM - Dartball
7:30PM – AA

Friday, March 27

Saturday, March 28

DIAPER BANK
11:00AM – Knitters
2:00PM – Momco Easter Event

Sunday, March 29

PALM SUNDAY

9:00AM - Lenten Breakfast
8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service
5:00PM - BYG Group Night