



# *“Living Expectantly”*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
10:00AM  
DECEMBER 24, 2023

[WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS](http://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

**"Lo, How a Rose"**

**by Jean Pasquet**

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### WELCOME

**Pastor Ellen Dawson**

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

*from Isaiah 12*

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;  
**make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things;  
**let this be known to all the world.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
**for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.  
Let us worship God!**

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Candle of Love

**Mike, Jane, Presley  
and Hudson Vennum**

### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we see your love in all you have done and continue to do for us and for the world. Help us prepare our hearts to receive the Christ Child and respond by following the commandments to love God and love one another.

**We rejoice in your faithfulness as we prepare our hearts with hope, peace, joy,  
and love to receive Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.**

### Hymn *(Please Stand)*

**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

**No. 154**

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**1** O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**2** O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

**3** O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. [Refrain]



4 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Brian Janssen

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgiving God, we have messed up in so many ways: we have attempted to disguise ourselves in fake piety, we have done good deeds only to make ourselves feel better, we have failed to exercise the compassion that Jesus embodied. Forgive us, Merciful God, for that which we have done and left undone. How long, O Lord, will you be angry with us? Shed your mercy upon us that we might be made new. This we pray in the holy name of Emmanuel, God With Us. Amen.**  
*Silent Prayer of Confession*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's forgiveness knows no ending. God's mercies are from everlasting to everlasting. God's love is undeniable. In the name of Jesus Christ, I announce to you: our sins are forgiven! **Alleluia! 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

Pastor Brian Janssen

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Brian Janssen

## FIRST READING

**Psalm 96:1-6 NRSV**

O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD; bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.  
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.  
Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

**SECOND READING**

**Luke 1:46b-55 NRSV**

**Pastor Ellen Dawson**

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;  
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**“Living Expectantly”**

**Pastor Ellen Dawson**

**WE RESPOND**

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**"Could This Be the Day"  
Bethany Choir**

**by Joseph M. Martin from  
"Canticle of Joy" Cantata**

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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)*      **“Savior of the Nations, Come”**      **verses 1,2,5**      **No. 168**

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Savior of the nations, come, show yourself the Virgin's son. Fill with wonder, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.

Not by human power or seed did the woman's womb conceive; only by the Spirit's breath was the Word of God made flesh.

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing; praise to Christ, our newborn King! With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come.

### **BENEDICTION** *(Please Stand)*

**Pastor Ellen Dawson**

### **POSTLUDE**



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

*From*

- \*Lee and Darlene Restich to the Glory of God.
- \*Tom and Carole Aspinall in memory of Harry and Ruth Aspinall and Charles and Irene Fox.
- \*Julie, Chris, Jenna and Michael Foltz in memory of Billy Arbogast and our Grandparents.
- \*Meagan, Jason, Amelia and Lorelei Smith in memory of James Smith and Robert White.
- \*Lynne and Mike Suchoza in honor of our children and grandchildren.
- \*Michael Barbour in memory of Phil Barbour.
- \*Jim and Judy Davidson in memory of Art and Mary Davidson and Ed and Dorothy Haberland.
- \*Alec Heiskell to the Glory of God.
- \*Mark and Nancy Schneider in memory of Mary & Dick Schneider and Shelby Stewart.
- \*Pat Mishizen in memory of deceased loved ones.
- \*Kyli and Heidi Martin in memory of Doug and Shirley Howard.
- \*Tim, Darlene and Erica Anderson in memory of Ralph & Gladys Anderson and Rose & Al Susa.
- \*Brian and Lisa Janssen in honor of our parents, and in memory of John Gunner.
- \*Nikki O'Brien in memory of Jack O'Brien and loved ones.
- \*Corinne McCartney in memory of Eva M. Cody and John C. "Jack" O'Brien.
- \*Nancy Yenchik in memory of Barry Yenchik.
- \*The Petrows in memory of Barbara Rank and Elinore & Joe Petrow.
- \*The McCauslands in memory of Eleanor McCausland and Regina Miller.
- \*The Rastetter Family in honor of our mother and grandmother, Dolly Rastetter; and in memory of our dad, Frank Rastetter, and grandparents.
- \*Barb Mours to the Glory of God.
- \*Ruth and Guy Doyle in memory of Barb & Jerry Phelps.
- \*Debby Hayes in memory of Tom Hayes.
- \*Claire Grove in memory of her father, John H. Oskin.
- \*Carol and Tom Willhite in memory of Scott Willhite, Axel Markel and our parents.
- \*Elaine Gray in memory of William T., William C & Martha Gray, Victor Sr., Rose, Victor A. Bebe, Victor III, and Joseph L. Iagnemma.
- \*Kim, Terry, Adrienne, Jeff, TJ and Samantha in honor of Evelyn Barbish, and in memory of Bill Barbish.
- \*Eric and Sherry Gregory in memory of Lisa Geuter
- \*Bill, Beth and Sarah Paviol in memory of Gladys Cimarolli, Harry Cimarolli and Sarah Durkin.



## **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, or outside of the Nursery.

**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 Chancel Rose is presented in honor of the birth of Truett Joseph Yanak, son of Jay and Lissa Yanak, grandson of Becky and John Yanak, on December 20, 2023.*

**The flowers in our Sanctuary this morning are presented**

*By Pat Swanson in honor and memory of Earl on his birthday.*

**SECRET SISTER NOTICE** - If you have signed up to be a part of the Secret Sister program and have not received information regarding your secret sister, please contact Pat Mishizen at 412-417-3541 or Judy Davidson at 412-343-7530

### **WANTED**

*Sound Board Operator Volunteers for the 8:15am service! and  
Sound Engineer Volunteers for Thursday Evening Bloom Sessions!*

Call or text Mike Segeleon at 412-389-0985 if you have any questions or would like to part of these important teams!

**END OF YEAR NOTICE-** The Check Is In the Mail....

As the end of the year approaches, please keep in mind that all contributions for 2023 must be received by the church no later than **December 31, 2023**. IRS general rules state that a check placed in the church offering plate in January 2024 cannot be recorded as a 2023 contribution, even if the check has been dated 2023. The only exception to this rule would be for contributions that are mailed and postmarked in 2023. These contributions would be deductible in 2023 even though the contributions were not received until 2024. If you have any questions please contact Kim McCann at 412-221-5132 or [finance@bethanypresby.org](mailto:finance@bethanypresby.org).

## **PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – Today - Sunday, 12/24 –**

There is only one service this morning at 10:00AM. This evening's services are a Family service with the Children's Pageant at 5:30PM, and a Traditional service at 7:00PM.

**NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE – Sunday, 12/31**-There is only one service at 10:00AM. *There is no Sunday School or Worship and Wonder on 12/24 and 12/31.*

**The GRIEF GROUP**, WILL BEGIN ON Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7pm in Room 224. A group discussion from "A Grace Disguised, How the Soul Grows Through Loss" by Jerry Sittser. All are welcome! Contact Sharon Salvini for a book.

**BLOOD DRIVE at Bethany – Save the Date** – A Blood Drive will be held at Bethany on January 7, 2024. Appointments are recommended and can be made on the Vitalant website at [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)

## **MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONS** – The Fellowship of Prayer is targeting prayers each month for missions we support. For the month of December, please pray for The Jesus Film Project and Campus Life.

**SARRIS CANDY** – Proceeds from Sarris Candy sales in the month of December will go to Sojourner House.

### **DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING - Christmas Joy Offering**

The special offering envelope for December supports the Christmas Joy offering. 50% of this collection supports the Presbytery Christmas Joy offering which provides assistance to 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 be split between Living in Liberty and Harvest Street Mission organizations.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Christmas Joy" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Christmas Joy collection on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to the present and future leaders of the Presbyterian Church, Living in Liberty and Harvest Street Mission through the Christmas Joy offering!



## **CHURCH FINANCES AS OF DECEMBER 10, 2023:**

	<b>2023 YTD (\$)</b>	<b>2022 YTD (\$)</b>	<b>+/- (\$)</b>
Contributions*	\$ 528,466	535,414	\$ (6,948)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	366,058	320,853	45,206
Investment Income **	13,407	(26,020)	39,427
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 907,931</b>	<b>\$830,246</b>	<b>\$ 77,685</b>
Year to Date Budget	959,112		
<b>+/- Budget</b>	<b>\$ (51,181)</b>		

\*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.

A REMINDER THAT ALL 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED AND/OR POSTMARKED BY 12/31/23.

### **WEEK AHEAD**

#### **Sunday, Dec 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

10:00AM – Worship  
5:30PM – Family Service/Pageant  
7:00PM – Traditional Service

#### **Monday, Dec 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY**

Church Offices are closed

#### **Tuesday, Dec 26**

Church Office is closed

#### **Wednesday, Dec 27**

11:30AM – Knitters

#### **Thursday, Dec 28**

#### **Friday, Dec 29**

#### **Sunday, Dec 31 – NEW YEARS EVE**

10:00AM – Worship

#### **Monday, Jan 1 - NEW YEARS DAY**

Church Offices are closed

#### **Tuesday, Jan 2**

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

#### **Wednesday, Jan 3**

10:00AM – Fellowship of Prayer  
11:30AM – Knitters  
7:00PM – Choir  
7:00PM - Scouts

#### **Thursday, Jan 4**

9:00AM – Quilters  
5:00PM – New Deacon Training  
7:00PM – Dart Ball  
7:30PM - AA

#### **Friday, Jan 5**

#### **Saturday, Jan 6**

#### **Sunday, Jan 7**

#### **BLOOD DRIVE**

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

