



“To Whom it is Given”

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

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 "Come, Thou Fount" arr. Jason D. Payne; composed John Wyeth
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WELCOME Pastor Brian Janssen

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

Let me hear what you will speak, O God, for you will speak peace to your people.
**Surely your salvation is at hand for those who fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land.**
Indeed, God will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
In God's righteousness let us worship, that we may walk in the Lord's way.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - CANDLE OF PEACE
Russ, Melanie, Hope and Ruth Bedner

Lord, in your mercy you sent your Son to redeem all people from sin and to establish true justice and peace on earth. We praise you for the ways Jesus fulfills your story and accomplishes all your purposes for creation.

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

HYMN (*Please Stand*) "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" **No. 153**
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1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

CALL TO CONFESSION Pastor Ellen Dawson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

God of forgiveness, with our tongues we speak evil against our sisters and brothers. By our actions, we disobey your commandments. Hostility is bred through our suspicion and envy; anger continues in spite of Christ's peace. You open our eyes to his righteousness, yet we remain blind to the truth of his reconciling presence. Forgive our deliberate misuse of your mercy, and in Christ hear our prayer.
Silent Prayer of Confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah speaks of God's comfort, of God's pardoning of iniquity, and of the coming One who shall level uneven ground and make a plain of the rough places. All the earth shall know that God's judgment is tempered by Christ's presence and peace on our behalf. In him we have assurance of pardon. **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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Debby Hayes

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

FIRST READING**Luke 10:17-24 (NRSV)****Pastor Ellen Dawson**

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

At that very hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

SECOND READING**Isaiah 40:1-11 (NRSV)****Pastor Brian Janssen**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass. The grass withers; the flower fades,]]
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**"To Whom It is Given"****Pastor Brian Janssen**

WE RESPOND

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"Advent Promise" by Anna Laure Page 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)*

"Lift Up Your Heads O Mighty Gates"

No.176

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1 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates: behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near; the Saviour of the world is here.

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart: make it a temple set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you: here, Lord, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel: your grace and love in me reveal.

4 So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

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, 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 flowers in our Sanctuary this morning are presented

by Jim and Judy Davidson in memory of their parents

We are celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism at our 10:45AM service this morning- *Bennett Thomas McCreary, son of Benjamin and Amanda McCreary.*

ANGELS FOR THE SOUTHWOOD BOYS – If you picked up an Angel for the Southwood Boys, please remember to have your gift back to the church by next Sunday. Please place it in a gift bag, or leave it unwrapped. A bin is located in the Welcome Center for the gifts.

COOKIE EXCHANGE – TODAY IS LAST DAY TO SIGN UP! The Bethany Christmas Cookie Exchange will be next Sunday, 12/17 immediately following the 10:45AM service. Signups are in the Welcome Center.

GIFT CARDS FOR SALE – Giant Eagle, Shop N Save and Starbucks cards are available for sale in the Welcome Center at the Sarris Candy cart. Perfect for the upcoming holidays! It's first come, first served on the card inventory that we have - we are no longer taking orders for scrip/gift cards. Proceeds from the sales benefits the missions of the church.

WANTED

Sound Board Operator Volunteers for the 8:15am service!

Qualified candidates need to be able to hear & see the front of the church from the balcony, have at least one finger to push a button on queue and stay alert and quiet during the 8:15 service. It is a very easy, but important job. We have successfully trained nine year olds and sixty year olds! Call or text Mike Segeleon at 412-389-0985 if you have any questions or would like to part of this important team!

Sound Engineer Volunteer for Thursday Evening Bloom Sessions!

Qualified candidates must be available from 6:00pm-8:30pm Thursday evenings. Skills needed are for the setup and tear down of our small portable sound system, Lift 35 lb. Speakers onto stands, run cables and plug all the parts together. Also operate a 16 channel mix board & adjust volume levels as needed during the Bloom Session. None of these tasks are hard to learn and we can train anyone who has an interest. Call or text Mike Segeleon at 412-389-0985 if you have any questions or would like to part of this ministry!

Business Manager, Kim McCann, is out of the office from 12/13-12/27.

Deadline for checks BEFORE Christmas: Noon December 12

Deadline for general 2023 expense reimbursements: December 27

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

ADVENT BREAKFAST – TODAY. Our Men’s Ministries will be serving their Advent Breakfast this morning in the Great Room. All are invited to stop down for a free delicious breakfast! (A free-will offering is available to help with the cost.)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – Sunday 12/24

10:00AM– Worship Service

5:30PM – Family Service/Pageant

7:00PM – Traditional Service

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.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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!

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

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 DECEMBER 3, 2023:

	2023 YTD (\$)	2022 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 518,352	522,903	\$ (4,551)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	365,433	316,269	49,164
Investment Income **	2,103	(26,020)	28,123
Total General Fund Income	\$ 885,888	\$813,152	\$ 72,737
Year to Date Budget	937,593		
+/- Budget	\$ (51,704)		

*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.

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Dec 10
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Advent Breakfast

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM – Sunday School
5:00PM – BYG Christmas Lights Drive Thru
7:00PM – The Chosen
6:00PM – MOPs Steering Committee

Monday, Dec 11

Tuesday, Dec 12
6:30PM – Men’s Huddle
7:00PM – Coed Dart Ball
7:00PM - ALANON

Wednesday, Dec 13
11:30AM – Knitters
7:00PM – Choir
7:00PM – MOPS Evening Group
7:00PM - Scouts

Thursday, Dec 14
9:00AM – Quilters
9:00AM - MOPS
12:00PM – Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom Service
7:00PM – Dart Ball
7:30PM - AA

Friday, Dec 15

Saturday, Dec 16
FOOD BANK
12:00PM – Southwood Boys Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec 17
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM – Sunday School
9:30AM – Parent Meeting for Confirmation Class
5:00PM – BYG Christmas Party
7:00PM – The Chosen

