



# *Our Confessional Faith: I. Our Hope in Life and Death*

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026  
10:45AM

[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

"Don't Be Weary Traveler" Op 59, No. 12

arr. Samuel Coleridge Taylor

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN WREATH

Pastor Brian Janssen

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

Come, people of God — weary travelers, burdened hearts, restless souls.

**We come seeking rest for our lives.**

Come, you who know the struggle within,  
who long to do what is right yet falter.

**We come trusting in God's mercy.**

We belong not to ourselves, but to the One who claims us in love.

**We come to worship the One who holds us, redeems us, and gives us life.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

**"Lord of All Hopefulness"**

**No. 469**

**1** Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy: Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

**2** Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

**3** Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace: Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

**4** Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm: Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

**Merciful God, we confess that we are not at peace within ourselves. We desire what is good, yet we follow what leads us away from you. We carry burdens we were never meant to bear. We trust our own strength rather than your grace. We**

live as though we belong to ourselves instead of to you. Forgive us for our divided hearts, our misplaced trust, and our resistance to your transforming work. Free us from all that enslaves us. Renew our hearts by your Spirit. Teach us to rest in your mercy and to walk in grateful obedience. In your compassion, restore us; in your faithfulness, deliver us; in your love, claim us again as your own. Amen. *Silent Confession*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Hear the good news: God does not abandon us to our struggle or leave us to carry our burdens alone. In Jesus Christ we are claimed, forgiven, and set free. Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God. By grace we are held securely, redeemed completely, and given new life. Believe the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

### **RESPONSE** (*Please Stand*)

### **“Gloria Patri”**

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

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**

### **FIRST READING**

**Matthew 11:25-30**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

At that time Jesus 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 the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

### **SECOND READING**

**Romans 7:13-25**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin that was working death in me through what is good, in order that it might be shown to be sin, so that through the commandment sin might become sinful beyond measure. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do

what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Our Confessional Faith: I.  
Our Hope in Life and Death**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**Question 1 of The Heidelberg Catechism**

Q. 1. What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

**A. That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. Amen.**

## **WE RESPOND**

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**"Don't Be Weary Traveler"**

**Bethany Choir**

Spiritual, arr. Bruce Trinkley; cpr 2001 Bruce Trinkley

**THE RESPONSE** *(Please Stand)*

**"Doxology"**

Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

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*)

**"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

**No. 473**

**1** What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

**2** Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

**3** Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge-- take it to the Lord in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

## **BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING RESPONSE**

**"Go Now in Peace"**

**Bethany Choir**

by Don Besig and Nancy Price; cpr 1988 Harold Flammer 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 3-2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Doreen Grove, Pat Mishizen, and Steve and Cathy Smith.

**Easter Flower orders must be in by March 1<sup>st</sup>!**

### **PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS**

**USHERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAYS** – We are in need of ushers for the 10:45 service. You can volunteer for a specific Sunday of the month. If you would like to consider volunteering, please contact Dale Anderson at [dalea591@gmail.com](mailto:dalea591@gmail.com).

**VBS** – Save the date for VBS 2026 for June 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12pm!

**BLOOM WITH A TWIST, WITH A TWIST!** - For the whole season of Lent, Bloom with a Twist is back! But this year, we added another "twist" to make it a little more fun :). We extend our welcome to ALL artists- you can come and paint the projects we have here, or bring your own craft, crochet project, or coloring app on your phone and JOIN US in the Welcome Center at 6:30pm to share in a time of fellowship, music, and worship through music. We hope to see you there!

**CHOIR CALL FOR HOLY WEEK!** - Have you wanted to see what it's like to sing with the Choir but are not ready to make a commitment to the whole year? You're invited to join us to share in our special music offerings during Passion Week! Rehearsals start Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and continue on Wednesdays until Easter. The first part of rehearsal will focus on prepping music for the season. For Easter this year, the Choir will bring back a Bethany favorite- "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah. We will offer special anthems during Holy Week from the Messiah, as well, and we invite YOU to participate in this incredible journey with us as we study and prepare our hearts for Holy Week and a triumphant Easter Celebration!

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

**SECRET SISTER LUNCHEON** – A Secret Sister luncheon will be held **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 12pm** after the second service **in the Welcome Center**. All of the Secret Sisters are invited to a casual luncheon gathering to meet and greet each other and enjoy some fellowship with other sisters of faith. Be sure to remember to send greeting cards and/or a small gift to your Secret Sister. Just keep your identity a secret. =) Contact Pat Mishizen at 412-417-3541 or Judy Davidson at 412-343-7530 with any questions. Can't wait to see you there!

**MISSION TEAM LUNCHEON** - Feeling like you don't fit in? Well, when it comes to mission work, you are part of a bigger picture! And we need you in that picture! **Join us on March 15<sup>th</sup> for the Mission Team Luncheon at 12pm in the Great Room!** Perhaps, you want to contribute to mission work...but you have never done anything like this. Maybe you are uncomfortable or unsure about what you can do, or maybe you feel you cannot give the time necessary for mission work. Guess what? All of us who have done mission work had the same feelings and concerns – and we may have answers for you. Ask us! When it comes to church mission work, team-work is a common thread – you don't go alone. You find an interest; see if there is a fit; learn from your church team members; and - a precious benefit - deepen your relationship with team members as you work.

**UPWARD BASKETBALL** - Upward Basketball at Bethany is underway! We have a record number of players registered this year. 306 players, ages K5 through 2nd grade, have begun practice with weekend games! The last game day of the season is **Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto:upward@bethanypresby.org). Thank you!

**BLOOD DRIVE** – Our first Blood Drive of the year will be held Sunday, **March 15<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 1:30pm during both services in Fellowship Hall**. We love to host this event.

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

*Thank you for your continued support.*

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 73,063	\$ 78,328	\$(5,265)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	54,635	53,137	1,498
Investment Income **	1,365	1,206	159
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 129,063</b>	<b>\$ 132,671</b>	<b>\$(3,608)</b>
Year to Date Budget	122,723		



+/- Budget	\$ 6,340		
------------	----------	--	--

\*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.

QR Code  
for online  
giving

## February Special Offering - Per Capita

The special offering envelope for February supports the 2026 Per Capita balance. This collection helps to defray the Per Capita cost that Bethany is required to remit to the Presbytery. The 2026 Per Capita amount is \$40.00. 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, February 22

##### 1<sup>st</sup> 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, February 23

4:30PM - Upward Practice  
4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout  
6:30PM - Men’s Huddle Group

#### Tuesday, February 24

4:30PM - Upward Practice  
7:00PM – Session Meeting  
7:00PM – ALANON

#### Wednesday, February 25

11:30AM – Knitters  
12:30PM - Hand Chimes  
5:30PM - Upward Practice  
6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts  
7:00PM – Choir Practice

#### Thursday, February 26

9:00AM – Quilters  
9:00AM - Morning Momco  
12:00PM – Rotary  
4:30PM - Upward Practice  
6:30PM – Bloom with a Twist  
7:00PM - Dartball  
7:30PM – AA

#### Friday, February 27

#### Saturday, February 28

8:00AM - Upward GAMEDAY  
SUPPLEMENTAL DIAPER BANK  
11:00AM - Knitters

#### Sunday, March 1

#### COMMUNION SUNDAY

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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