



“The Field and the Harvest”

10:00AM
GRADUATION SUNDAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

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

"Fugue in F Major" attributed to J.S. Bach

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WELCOME

Pastor Ellen Dawson

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Based on Isaiah 44

Ruth Doyle

Come and worship,

all you who love and serve the Lord:

There is no one like our God!

The First and Last – the only One:

There is no one like our God!

Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer and King:

There is no one like our God!

The Rock in whom we place our trust:

There is no one like our God!

Let's worship God together.

OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

HYMN *(Please Stand)* **"God of Creation, All Powerful" vs 1,3,4,5 No. 27**

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1 God of creation, all powerful, all wise, Lord of the universe rich with surprise,
Maker, Sustainer, and Ruler of all, we are your children--you hear when we call.

3 God of redemption, who wrought our rebirth, called out your church from the ends of
the earth, still you are Savior, put darkness to flight; overcome sin by salvation's pure
light!

4 God of your people, your Word still stands fast; do for us now as you've done in the
past! Yours is the kingdom, your triumph we claim, challenging evil in Jesus' strong
name.

5 God of our now, all our trust is in you, Covenant God, ever faithful and true;
Sovereign Creator, Redeemer, and Lord, now and forever your name be adored!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ruth Doyle

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ruth Doyle

O God who will not let us go, we confess that we have been so wrapped up in ourselves that have not loved You with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. Forgive us for living with clenched hands, for they can neither give nor receive. Forgive us for living with eyes tightly shut, for that does not allow us to see pain or beauty. Forgive us for our feet of clay that cannot dance in joy or run to help. We ask for your grace, for your healing, and for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us to change, both individually and as the Body of Christ. Amen. *Silent Confession*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. His love never fails and his grace never ends. Know and believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God! 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

Abbie Gardner

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Ruth Doyle

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me?
Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

SECOND READING**Matthew 13:24-30****Pastor Ellen Dawson**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.**SERMON****"The Field and the Harvest"****Pastor Ellen Dawson****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH****The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE RESPOND**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****THE OFFERTORY "My Tribute" by Andrae Crouch Soloist, Dale Anderson**

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THE RESPONSE *(Please Stand)***"Doxology"**

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**

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATES

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy God, we praise You. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless You for creating the whole world, for Your promises to Your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom Your fulness dwells. Born of Mary, He shares our life.

People: Eating with sinners, He welcomes us.

Leader: Guiding His children, He leads us.

People: Visiting the sick, He heals us.

Leader: Dying on the cross, He saves us.

People: Risen from the dead, He gives new life.

Leader: Therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of Your name.

SANCTUS *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Each person is asked to **hold the bread until all have received it**. We will then partake of it together, signifying our unity as the Body of Christ. Each person is asked to **drink the juice as soon as he or she receives it**, signifying the personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE ARE SENT

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

“Hymn of Promise”

No. 515

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1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity;
in our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

POSTLUDE



OUR GRADUATES

High School Graduates

Carson Suzanne DeRoss graduated from South Fayette High School and she will be attending Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. Carson will also compete on their acrobatics and tumbling team. She has yet to declare a major. Carson is the daughter of Nicholas and Gretchen DeRoss.

Tyler Nicholson, son of Keith and Peggy Nicholson, graduated from South Fayette High School where he played soccer, football, and volleyball. Tyler will be attending Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, OH as a Business major. He will also be playing football at BWU.

Landon Smith graduated from Chartiers Valley High School and the Automotive Technology Program at Parkway West CTC. Landon is the son of Josh and Michele Smith.

We also congratulate **Luke Dunlap, Alex Harbison, Ian Sharp, and Nolan Walsh.**

College Graduates

Tanner Zissis graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Economics, History, & Hospitality from the University of Central Florida.

Katie Nagy graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics & Political Science.

Abbie Gardner, Bethany's Youth Director, graduated from Liberty University with a Bachelor's Degree in Christian Education.

Graduate Degrees

Hope Trotta graduated from Pennsylvania Western University with her Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology. She will now be completing her Clinical Fellowship Year in order to become officially certified.

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.

PASTORAL CONCERNS

Pauline Oyler, Roberta Gerstacker

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are presented in honor of Nadina Robusto with gratitude for our wonderful music.

JOB OPENINGS AT BETHANY CHURCH – Bethany Church is accepting applications for the positions of *Sunday Nursery Coordinator* and *Sunday Nursery Substitutes*, and *Part-time Administrative Assistant* (this is a Monday through Friday, in-office position), Information can be found on the website. Resumes can be sent to Kim McCann at finance@bethanypresby.org.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

SUMMER BLOOM – Beginning this Thursday, June 6th - Bloom is moving outside this summer for praise and fellowship! Come join us for praise through contemporary music! Some seating is available in the Courtyard, but you are invited to bring your own comfy lawn chair, and feel free to bring a snack along with you, too! (Inclement weather option will return indoors to the Welcome Center). Hope to see you there!

June 6- Courtyard 6:30- 8 pm

June 27- Street side- Bethany Front/Side Lawn 6:30 - 8 pm

VBS DECORATION DAY – June 11. We will be decorating the church for VBS on Tuesday, June 11th beginning at 12noon. If you can spare a little time to help turn our church into an undersea adventure, we would love to have you join us.

DEAR BETHANY GOLFERS -Saturday, June 22nd starting at 8:30am. Please consider joining us and bringing some friends to our annual Bethany Golf outing being held at Ft. Cherry Golf Course on Saturday, June 22nd. Our event is open to all golfers and uses a golfer friendly 'Scramble' format. Cost is \$87 (check/cash) or \$90 (on-line payment), and includes your round of golf and luncheon afterwards! Registration forms can be found in the Welcome Center.

DANIEL at Sight and Sound Theater, September 4th and 5th. If you are interested in being a part of a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in September to see the new production of "Daniel", please contact Carole Aspinall at 412-833-8114. This is a trip being led by our Golden Oldies, but all church members are welcome.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

VBS – YOUTH & ADULT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! We have a record number of participants registered already & will need as many helping hands as possible. Adult volunteers are also very much needed! Our dates for this year are June 17-21 & the time commitment is 8:45am - 12:10pm. Volunteer hours are available & any necessary forms will be signed.

You can register as a volunteer at <https://vbspro.events/p/bethanypresby>
Contact Celina Farabaugh (cfarabaugh19@gmail.com or 724-554-6370) if you have any questions. *Please spread the word to any adults you may know who would be interested in volunteering as well.*

THE SUMMERSVILLE, WV MISSION TRIP 2024, work week will be from August 11th through the 17th. Lodging provided at Summersville Presbyterian Church. Full and half week options are available. Russ Bedner, Dave Colton or Connie Segeleon can answer questions regarding the trip.

DONATIONS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Thank you so much to all who have donated items! *We have received enough cardboard rolls. We are no longer in need of them.* We are in need of:

- Crepe Paper Streamers in shades of green
- Typewriter/Trace paper, various colors

SARRIS CANDY –The Sarris Candy sales proceeds for June benefit Fisher House, a foundation that builds comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital.

JUNE SPECIAL OFFERING - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – The special offering envelope for June supports Vacation Bible School. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Vacation Bible School" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for VBS on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to this great program for the youth of Bethany and the community!

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MAY 26, 2024:

Thank you for your continued support.

	2024 YTD (\$)	2023 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 214,286	228,949	\$ (14,663)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	137,500	95,835	41,665
Investment Income **	4,902	8,501	(3,600)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 356,688	\$333,286	\$ 23,402
Year to Date Budget	377,016		
+/- Budget	\$ (20,328)		

*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.

No checks, no problem!
A QR Code for online giving is available.



WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, June 2

GRADUATION SUNDAY

8:15AM and 10:00AM - Worship with
Communion
5:00PM - BYG

Monday, June 3

6:30pm – Body Carpenter Workout

Tuesday, June 4

6:30PM - Men's Huddle
7:00PM – ALANON
7:00PM – DQ Group

Wednesday, June 5

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

Thursday, June 6

9:00AM – Quilters
10:00AM – Creation VBS
6:30PM – Bloom in the Courtyard
12:00PM - Rotary
7:30PM - AA

Friday, June 7

Saturday, June 8

11:30AM – Knitters

Sunday, June 9

EDUCATION FUND SUNDAY

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship