



# *Our Confessional Faith: II. You are Going to Believe in Something*

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 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 "Lenten Medley: Just As I Am and Amazing Grace" Adult Ukulele Choir

WELCOME Pastor Brian Janssen

EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN WREATH Pastor Brian Janssen

OPENING PRAYER (*Please Stand*) Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please Stand*) Pastor Larry Ruby

Brothers and sisters, we gather in the presence of the living God, who calls us not merely to admire Christ, but to follow him.

**We come to worship the One who gives his life for the world.**

Our Lord calls us to lose what we cannot keep in order to receive what cannot be taken away.

**We come seeking true life— life shaped by the cross and sustained by grace.**

Let us worship the God who searches our hearts, who redeems our failures, and who teaches us the way of faithful obedience.

**We worship God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

HYMN (*Please Stand*) **"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"** No. 248

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1 I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus. God sent the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Jesus.

**Refrain:** In Him, there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus. Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path; And show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race; We shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Larry Ruby

Gracious and holy God, we confess that we have named you as Lord, yet we have not trusted you with our lives. We cling to our own plans, resist your refining work, and shrink back from costly obedience. Our words have not always reflected your wisdom. We have spoken carelessly, wounded others with sharp tongues, remained silent when truth was needed, and sought praise rather than

**faithfulness. Forgive us for wanting the benefits of discipleship without embracing its demands. Cleanse our hearts. Train our speech. Shape us into a people who follow Christ not only in name, but in surrender. For the sake of Jesus our Savior, Amen. *Silent Confession***

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Hear the good news: The One who calls us to take up the cross is the same One who carried it for us. Christ has borne our sin, redeemed our failures, and silenced every accusation against us. In him, your sins are forgiven. In him, you are made new. In him, you are free to follow without fear. **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 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**

**James 3:1-12**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**SECOND READING****Mark 8:27-38****Pastor Brian Janssen**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.****SERMON****Our Confessional Faith: II.  
You are Going to Believe in Something****Pastor Brian Janssen****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:****From the Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper?

**A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.**

**WE RESPOND****THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****THE OFFERTORY****"Take Up Your Cross"****Bethany Choir**

by Anthony Giamanco; cpr 2007 Augsburg Fortress

**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

## 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** - People may now come forward.

Communion servers will serve from the front of the church and each row will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and cup. For those who are unable to come

forward, communion will be still be offered to you at your seat after the standing participants are done.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### WE ARE SENT

**HYMN** (*Please Stand*)

**“Rejoice the Lord is King”**

**No. 342**

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1 Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore:

**Refrain:** Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

2 Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, The God of truth and love; When He has purged our stains,  
He took his seat above: [Refrain]

3 His kingdom cannot fail, He rules both earth and heaven; The keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given: [Refrain]

4 Rejoice in glorious hope for Christ the Judge shall come to gather all his saints  
to their eternal home: [Refrain]

## 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 3-2<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 Tom and Carole Aspinall, Dolly McCrea, and Pat Mishizen.

**Easter Flower orders must be in by TODAY 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 for the **5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> of March!** 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 are 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!

**BLOOM AND CAFÉ BETHANY** – Join us for our next Bloom and Café Bethany event on **Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm!** There will be a catered dinner followed by a modern worship service for families! We hope to see you there! Sign up for the event on the signup sheets in the Welcome Center!

**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 Fellowship Hall!** 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.

**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 Great Room**. We love to host this event.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT** – Be sure to fill out the insert in the bulletin for our Women's Retreat on the number of days we would prefer and place it in the offering plate.

**HELP WANTED AT THE WELCOME DESK** - Our Bethany Church Receptionist Desk is looking for PART TIME volunteers (male or female) to fill in for our regulars whenever they are unable to be at the desk. Help is needed Monday – Friday:

**Morning - 9:00AM to 11:30AM & Afternoon - 11:30AM to 2:00PM**

The Receptionist duties involve answering the telephone and greeting anyone whom may come in the door. Your free time at the desk can be spent reading, crocheting, knitting, watching a movie on your laptop etc. Occasionally we are asked to do a few desk duties to help out our church secretary. Whenever one of our regulars is not able to be at the desk, a notification is sent to Barb Crawford. If a request is made for help, a response to Barb is always preferred with either a YES or NO — no reason ever needed! Thank you!

**DIAPER BANK** – The Diaper Bank is looking for volunteer help! Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month from 9am to 12pm volunteers give out these vital products to anyone in need of assistance in the community. This service provides in need families with diapers and wipes from newborns to toddlers. Contact Barb Crawford with any interest or questions at 412-977-4035 or contact the church. Thank you!

**MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE  
CHURCH FINANCES AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

*Thank you for your continued support.*

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 84,217	\$ 90,812	\$(6,595)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	62,440	60,728	1,712
Investment Income **	1,365	1,206	159
Total General Fund Income	\$ 148,022	\$ 152,746	\$(4,724)
Year to Date Budget	140,425		
+/- Budget	\$ 7,596		



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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 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

**Monday, March 2**

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

**Tuesday, March 3**

7:00PM – ALANON

**Wednesday, March 4**

10:00AM – Fellowship of Prayer

11:30AM – Knitters

12:30PM - Hand Chimes

6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts

7:00PM – Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 5**

9:00AM – Quilters

12:00PM – Rotary

6:30PM – Bloom with a Twist

7:00PM - Dartball

7:30PM – AA

**Friday, March 6**

**Saturday, March 7**

8:00AM - Upward Celebration

**Sunday, March 8**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship

9:30AM - Sunday School

Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service

1:00PM – Troop 2 Council

5:00PM - BYG Group Night