



# *Our Confessional Faith: IV. So That You May Believe*

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT  
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 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**

**"There is A Balm in Gilead"**

**Staff Handbell Choir**

African American Spiritual; arr. Albert Zabel; cpr 2008 Agape Publishing

**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**

Out of the depths we lift our voices to God.

**We wait for the Lord, trusting in mercy and steadfast love.**

When sorrow weighs upon the heart and hope seems far away,

**The Lord draws near to hear the cry of his people.**

When the shadow of death surrounds us,

**God speaks a word stronger than the grave.**

Come, let us worship the Lord who hears our cries and calls us into life.

**We come to worship the living God.**

**HYMN** (*Please Stand*)

**"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

**No. 96**

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God  
and King, the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread thro' all the earth  
abroad the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the  
sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free; his blood can make  
the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*Please be seated*)

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

**Merciful God, We confess that we do not always trust your power to bring life out of death. When sorrow surrounds us, we lose heart. When waiting is required of us, we grow impatient. We confess that we often turn away from the pain of others. Instead of entering into their grief, we keep our distance and guard our comfort. Forgive us, Lord. Lift us from the depths of our sin and restore our hope. Teach us to trust your mercy, to wait for your redemption, and to believe that**

**your life-giving power is at work even when we cannot yet see it. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen. *Silent Confession***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Hear the good news. The God who hears the cries of His people does not abandon them in the depths. In Jesus Christ, God has entered the sorrow of this world and revealed that death does not have the final word. Because of Christ, mercy is greater than our sin and hope is stronger than despair. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

**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**

**Psalm 130**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

**SECOND READING** **John 11: 1-4,11-15,20-27,32-36, 38-45** **Pastor Brian Janssen**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

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**Pastor Brian Janssen**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**From the Heidelberg Catechism**

Q. 57. What comfort does "the resurrection of the body" give you?

**A. That after this life my soul shall be immediately taken up to Christ, its Head, and that this flesh of mine, raised by the power of Christ, shall be reunited with my soul, and be conformed to the glorious body of Christ.**

Q. 58. What comfort does the article concerning "the life everlasting" give you?

**A. That, since I now feel in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, I shall possess, after this life, perfect blessedness, which no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, and thereby praise God forever.**

**WE RESPOND**

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

## THE OFFERTORY

### "Wayfarin' Stranger"

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Ken Berg; cpr 2004 Choristers Guild

## 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 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)*

### "Softly and Tenderly"

**No. 348**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

**Refrain:** Come home, come home; ye who are weary come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. [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 Laura Dugan, Pat Mishizen, Bill Paviol, and Ron Gastgeb.

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Joyce Bartolomeo in memory of her mother, Ruth Wright.

*The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mike Suchoza and family on the death of his beloved wife, Lynne Suchoza, who passed into the arms of her Lord and Savior on March 13, 2026.*

### **PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS**

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

**MEN'S RETREAT SAVE THE DATE** – Mark your calendars for the Men's Retreat at Oglebay Resort for May 8-9<sup>th</sup>!

**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!

**BLOOD DRIVE** – Our first Blood Drive of the year will be held Sunday, **TODAY from 8am to 1:30pm during both services in Great Room.** We love to host this event.

**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 TODAY for the Mission Team Luncheon at 12pm in 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.

**SOUTHWOOD BOYS EVENT** - The Discipleship Team is hosting a dinner for the Southwood Boys Home on **March 25<sup>th</sup>**. Dinner prep starts at 1:00pm and volunteers and help are needed! Please contact Gary Phillips at 724-926-2682 if you would like to help! Thank you so much!

**BLOOM WITH A TWIST, WITH A TWIST!** - For the whole season of Lent, Bloom with a Twist is back for the **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!

**MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**  
**CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MARCH 8, 2026**

*Thank you for your continued support.*

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 98,365	\$ 114,574	\$(16,209)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	78,050	75,910	2,140
Investment Income **	2,352	2,188	164
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 178,767</b>	<b>\$ 192,672</b>	<b>\$(13,905)</b>
Year to Date Budget	177,484		
+/- Budget	\$ 1,282		



QR Code  
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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 15**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

##### **BLOOD DRIVE**

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship  
9:30AM - Sunday School  
Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service  
12:00PM – Mission Team Luncheon  
4:30PM - BYG Outing

### **Monday, March 16**

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout  
6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

### **Tuesday, March 17**

10:00AM – Adult Ukulele  
7:00PM - Deacons Meeting  
7:00PM – ALANON

### **Wednesday, March 18**

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

### **Thursday, March 19**

9:00AM – Quilters  
12:00PM – Rotary  
12:00PM – Golden Oldies Luncheon  
6:30PM – Bloom with a Twist  
7:00PM - Dartball  
7:30PM – AA

### **Friday, March 20**

### **Saturday, March 21**

FOOD BANK

### **Sunday, March 22**

#### **5<sup>th</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