



*Cold Weather, Warm Hearts:  
I. Joy When You Least Expect It*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 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

#### "Etude in G Minor"

by H. Leslie Adams; cpr 2001 American Composers Alliance

### WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

In seasons of cold and shadow, God does not withdraw love.

**God draws nearer with mercy and grace.**

When our hearts grow tired and our hope feels thin,

**God sets a table of welcome before us.**

When we carry shame, regret, or unfinished stories,

**God meets us with forgiveness that restores the soul.**

Come, not because you are strong, but because you are invited.

**We come to receive mercy, and to learn again the joy of love.**

Let us worship God!

### OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

### HYMN *(Please Stand)* "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

No. 56

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**1** Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. My soul with comfort rich he fills, and every grief he gently stills: to God all praise and glory!

**2** What God's almighty power has made, in mercy he is keeping; by morning glow or evening shade his eye is never sleeping. And where he rules in kingly might, there all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

**3** We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us. Our Savior saw our helplessness and came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who is by one and all adored: to God all praise and glory!

**4** Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory; let all who know his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story! Cast every idol from its throne, the Lord is God and he alone: to God all praise and glory.

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

Pastor Larry Ruby

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

**Merciful God, we confess that we have measured ourselves and others by standards of pride rather than love. We have withheld compassion, judged what we did not understand, and protected our respectability more than our neighbor's**

**dignity. We have been slow to offer forgiveness and hesitant to receive it ourselves, preferring distance over humility and control over gratitude. In this season of cold and weariness, we admit how easily our hearts grow guarded and small. Forgive us, O God. Restore to us the joy of being fully known and fully loved. Teach us to live as people who have been shown great mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Silent Confession***

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Hear the good news: God does not love us because we are worthy; God makes us new because God is merciful. Where shame once ruled, grace now speaks. Where fear once lingered, peace is given. Where sin abounded, forgiveness has already gone ahead of us. In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are received, restored, and sent in peace. **Thanks be to 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**

### **Psalm 5**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Listen to my words, O Lord; attend to my sighing. Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray. O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you and watch. For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil will not sojourn with you. The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful. But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house; I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. For there is no truth in their mouths; their hearts are destruction; their throats are open graves; they flatter with their tongues. Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of their many transgressions, cast them out, for they have rebelled against you. But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover them with favor as with a shield.

**SECOND READING****Luke 7:36-50****Pastor Brian Janssen**

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.****SERMON****Cold Weather, Warm Hearts:  
I. Joy When You Least Expect It****Pastor Brian Janssen****WE RESPOND****SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS****THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****THE OFFERTORY****"We Shall Overcome"****Bethany Choir**

Music by Raymond Wise; cpr 1985 Raise Publishing

**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*)

**"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

**No. 500**

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**1** Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light:

**Refrain:** Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

**2** When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall [Refrain]

**3** When the darkness appears and the night draws near, And the day is past and gone, At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand [Refrain]

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING RESPONSE**

**"Every Valley"**

**Bethany Choir**

(excerpts) by John Ness Beck; cpr 1976 Beckenhorst Press

**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, Bill Paviol, Connie Segeleon, and Asher Stark.

Be sure to sign up for memorial flowers on the poster in the Welcome Center.

It's been a big week here in the Sanctuary! Our Music Associate, Caleb Aldridge, and our beloved sound and tech guru, Mike Segeleon, installed the new sound system! We offer special thanks to both of them for their hard work, dedication, and for elevating our experience in worship with this new technology. Look at the upcoming newsletter for a peek behind the scenes, and please ask them about the new equipment, it's incredible!

### **CELEBRATION OF THOSE GETTING INSTALLED AND ORDAINED**

#### **Elders**

Barb Mours  
Joe Findley  
Doug Bovard

#### **Deacons**

Debby Hayes  
Mike Venum  
Pat Mishizen  
Carol Cowser *(newly ordained)*  
Becky Findley *(newly ordained)*  
Jana Grimm *(newly ordained)*  
Bob Grimm *(newly ordained)*  
Sara Sunderlin *(newly ordained)*  
Dave Colton *(newly ordained)*  
Laura Dugan *(newly ordained)*  
Laurie Sysak *(newly ordained)*

**PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS**

**Bethany Youth Group Upcoming Events**

**Sunday January 18th, 5:00pm-6:30pm** - Second Group Night of the year! This week we will continue to talk about “Holy Habits.” We will also have a hot chocolate bar!

**Sunday, January 25th, 5:00pm-6:30pm** - Our last Group Night that is focused on Holy Habits! We will finish up this series by taking home our prayer boards!

**Sunday February 1st, we will be going Mini Golfing** - (indoors of course 🎯) at Puttshack! We will meet at the church at 4pm, and return around 7pm. The cost is \$20! Please RSVP by Wednesday January 28th!

**The Bethany Youth Group Survey!** - We are currently asking youth and their parents to fill out a survey to help us continue to improve the youth ministry here at Bethany (like a mini Holy Cow survey!). If you would like to fill one out and haven’t yet gotten a link to it -please email Abbie at [youth@bethanypresby.org](mailto:youth@bethanypresby.org)

**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!

**ADULT UKULELE** - Adult Ukulele will resume on Thursdays at 10am in February!

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION** - The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will be held Monday, January 19, 2026 at Bethany Presbyterian Church at 6:30pm. The musical program includes a brief message, adult and youth community service awards, and community prayers. All are welcome to attend!

**UPWARD BASKETBALL** - Upward Basketball at Bethany begins again in January! We have a record number of players registered this year. 306 players, ages K5 through 2nd grade, will be taking to the courts with their first practices the week of January 12th. Our first game day is Saturday, January 24th, and the last game day is **Saturday, February 28th**. If you can give us an hour or two, or more, on a game day to help manage this amazing program, please consider helping us. 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!

**MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**CHURCH FINANCES AS OF JANUARY 11, 2026**

*Thank you for your continued support.*

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 17,908	\$ 19,547	\$ (1,639)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	14,995	15,182	(187)
Investment Income **	600	-	-
Total General Fund Income	\$ 33,503	\$ 34,729	\$ (1,226)



Year to Date Budget	34,808		
+/- Budget	\$ (1,305)		

\*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

## January Special Offering - Initial Offering

The special offering envelope for January supports the Initial Offering. This collection helps to defray the cost of the church offering envelopes. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Initial Offering" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Initial Offering on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to Initial Offering!

### WEEK AHEAD

#### Sunday, January 18

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, January 19

##### Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

#### Tuesday, January 20

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

#### Wednesday, January 21

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

#### Thursday, January 22

9:00AM – Quilters  
9:00AM – Morning MomCo.  
12:00PM – Rotary  
4:30PM - Upward Practice  
6:30PM – Bloom  
7:00PM - Dartball  
7:30PM – AA

#### Friday, January 23

**Saturday, January 24**  
Upward GAMEDAY  
SUPPLEMENTAL DIAPER BANK  
11:00AM - Knitters

#### Sunday, January 25

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship  
9:30AM - Sunday School  
Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after  
the second service  
5:00PM - BYG Group Night