



# *“The God Who Comes to Us”*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025  
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

**"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"**

by J.S. Bach; arr. Christina Harmon; Sacred Music Publishing

### WELCOME

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

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

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

The angel of the Lord comes with good news.

**Do not be afraid, for God is with us.**

The promise of salvation draws near.

**We open our hearts to receive God's word.**

The Holy Spirit stirs, and grace takes on flesh.

**Let it be with us according to God's will.**

Come, let us worship the Lord.

**For nothing is impossible with God.**

Let us worship God!

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – Candle of Peace

**Chris, Julie, Jenna  
and Michael Foltz**

### OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

### HYMN *(Please Stand)*

**"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

**No. 232**

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**1** Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

**2** King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

**3** Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

**4** At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

### CALL TO CONFESSION

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

**Merciful God, you speak your word of life, yet we confess that our fears often**

drown out your voice. You call us to courage, but we cling to what is safe. You invite us to trust, but we hesitate and question. You ask us to bear Christ into the world, but we shrink from the cost of discipleship. Forgive us, O Lord. Overshadow us with your Spirit, renew our hearts with your grace, and teach us to say with Mary, "Let it be with me according to your word." Amen.  
*Silent Confession*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Hear the good news: The God who sends angels to calm our fears also sends Christ to redeem our lives. In him, grace has taken flesh, and through him, our sins are forgiven. **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**

**Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.'" Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one and said, "I have set the crown on one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name his horn shall be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'"

### **SECOND READING**

**Luke 1:26-38**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## **SERMON**

**"The God Who Comes to Us"**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**From the Westminster Confession 6.043**

**It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the prophet, priest, and king; the head and Savior of his Church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom he did, from all eternity, give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified... Amen.**

## **WE RESPOND**

## **THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

## **THE OFFERTORY**

**"How Lovely Are the Messengers"**

**Bethany Choir**

by Felix Mendelssohn; arr. Hal Hopson; cpr 2006 Birnamwood Publications

## **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*)      **"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"**      **No. 153**

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**1** Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins  
release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the  
earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

**2** Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

## BENEDICTION

**CLOSING RESPONSE**

**"Advent Benediction"**

**Bethany Choir**

by David Lantz III; cpr. 2025 Lantz Choral Publications

## 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 Carol Aspinall, Dolly McCrea, and Edgar Shaffer.

Christmas Eve service times will be 5:00pm for the Family service and 7:00pm for the Candlelight service.

## **PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS**

### **HOLY COW LISTENING SESSIONS**

We will be hosting listening sessions for the Holy Cow Survey for the congregation. The last session will be **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> after Worship.**

*\*Potential Zoom Session Monday, December 8, 6:30pm*

**BRIDGEVILLE AREA FOOD BANK ANGEL TREE-** Please note that all the Red Food Bank Angels have been taken from the Angel Tree and we thank everyone who participated. However, this week we became aware of a new family with 6 children who require assistance from the Food Bank. As we want to ensure that the children receive a gift, we have added six new Angels to the tree. Due to the fast turnaround required, we had to take some liberties with the design so they look different than the original ones. Please consider taking one of these Angels and complete the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. The gifts should be approximately \$20. As a REMINDER, all of the gifts, including these new ones, **must be RETURNED UNWRAPPED by next Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT WITH BYG - Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> -** Family Christmas Movie Night! We will be watching The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! It will be in the Welcome Center. Doors open at 5pm and the movie will start at 5:30pm. We will have concessions and seating, but if you want to bring your own you are more than welcome! Families of ALL AGES are invited to this event - children under 12 years old must have any adult with them!

**MEN'S ADVENT BREAKFAST** - Please join us for the Men's Advent Breakfast on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> after the first and second service. And join us in worship for the Cantata at the 10:45 service! The Bethany Choir and guest musicians are excited to share, "And Glory Shone Around," by Lloyd Larson and Douglas E. Wagner to glorify God in our worship!

**BETHANY DEACONS BACKPACK DRIVE** - The Bethany Deacons are hosting another backpack drive to gift to the Southwood Boy's home. These bags will be gifted to every new admission throughout the 2026 year. **You can donate until Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>!** We are asking for \$20 per backpack. You will be supporting the purchasing of the backpack and the essential items we provided them with: socks, towels, toothbrush, shampoo and more! All items are purchased and put together by the Deacons. Cash or checks with **"backpack"** in the memo are accepted. Please put cash in a labeled envelope and place in the offering plate, or give to Sarah Paviol or Edgar Shafer.

**SECRET SISTER REVEAL LUNCHEON** – Join us **TODAY** for **The Reveal Luncheon FOR THE 2025 SECRET SISTERS** at 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall to see who your Secret Sister has been this whole year! Appetizers and desserts will be provided. We can't wait to see you there!

#### **BYG DECEMBER EVENTS -**

**Sunday December 21st** - Progressive Dinner - We will meet at the church at 4pm. We will stop at various volunteer's houses and have multiple courses that include snacks, sides, entrees, and desserts. This event will serve as our Christmas party, so bring an item from home (or an item purchased for less than \$5), to participate in our White Elephant Gift Exchange. Christmas PJs and festive attire are highly encouraged!!

We will NOT meet Sunday December 28th

Make sure to stop in the Welcome Center and grab January and February's schedules!

**JENNA'S 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL JOY DRIVE FOR LIGHT OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION** - All donations will be going to the Light of Life Rescue Mission which transforms lives through the love of Christ by providing food, shelter, and hope to men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, poverty or addiction. Please drop off donations in the bin in the Welcome Center.

**UPWARD BASKETBALL** - Upward Basketball at Bethany begins again in January! We have a record number of players registered this year. 306 players, ages K5 though 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 NOVEMBER 30, 2025

*Thank you for your continued support.*

	2025 YTD (\$)	2024 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 488,580	\$ 502,416	\$(13,835)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	310,015	313,250	(3,235)
Investment Income **	13,609	36,284	(22,675)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 812,204	\$ 851,950	\$(39,745)
Year to Date Budget	863,329		
+/- Budget	\$ (51,125)		

\*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

### December Special Offering – Christmas Joy / Mission Flights International

The special offering envelope for December supports the Christmas Joy offering. 50% of this collection supports the Presbytery Christmas Joy offering which helps current and retired church workers in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

The other 50% will support Missionary Flights International (MFI), a faith based nonprofit mission aviation organization operating flights between Florida and areas of need in the Caribbean. MFI’s mission is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in partnership with Bible-centered missions by providing reliable transportation and logistics service. MFI flies missionaries, their families, and household effects to and from the field. MFI also transports work teams and their equipment for short-term ministry. MFI receives mail and cargo for mission work that the staff handles with care and delivers as soon as possible.

*As the end of the year approaches, please keep in mind that all contributions for 2025 must be received by the church no later than December 31, 2025. IRS general rules state that a check placed in the church offering plate in January 2026 cannot be recorded as a 2025 contribution, even if the check has been dated 2025. The only exception to this rule would be for contributions that are mailed and postmarked in 2025. These contributions would be deductible in 2025 even though the contributions were not received until 2026.*

## **WEEK AHEAD**

**Sunday, December 7**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship

9:30AM - Sunday School

Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service

Holy Cow Listening Session after Worship

**Monday, December 8**

6:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

**Tuesday, December 9**

7:00PM – ALANON

**Wednesday, December 10**

11:30AM – Knitters

12:30PM - Hand Chimes

6:30PM – Troop 2 Scouts

7:00PM – Choir Practice

**Thursday, December 11**

9:00AM - Morning MomCo.

9:00AM - Quilters

12:00PM - Rotary

6:30PM - Bloom

7:00PM - Evening MomCo.

7:00PM - Dartball

7:30 - AA

**Friday, December 12**

**Saturday, December 13**

9:30AM – Cantata Rehearsal

11:00AM – Knitters

12:00PM - Southwood Boys Christmas Party

5:00PM - BYG Movie Night

**Sunday, December 14**

**CANTATA at 10:45 Service**

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

**Advent Breakfast after both services**

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship

9:30AM - Sunday School

Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service

