



“The Signs of Hope”

10:45AM
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

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 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. Penny Rodriguez
c 2000 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

WELCOME Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please Stand*) Pastor Ellen Dawson

God's people have been called to gather.

From breast-feeding infants to aged grandparents, all are welcome.

God's people have been called to repent.

From those who wear their faults on their sleeves, to those whose secret hearts are broken, all are welcome.

God's people have been called to be reconciled to our God.

From those who have turned away, to those whose pain whispers in the night, all are welcome.

Let us worship God

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - CANDLE OF JOY Mark, Jocelyn, Katelyn and Carolyn Morelock

OPENING PRAYER Mark, Jocelyn, Katelyn and Carolyn Morelock

Let us pray,

Lord, we joyfully praise you as we remember how you fulfilled your promises through Mary, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist. We wish to serve you as they did, full of faith, love, and joy.

We rejoice in your faithfulness as we prepare our hearts with hope, peace, and joy to receive Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

HYMN (*Please Stand*) "What Child is This?" **No. 184**
Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, this is a hard time. The focus of Lent is on the pain and suffering of Jesus and our own need for penitence. It is a time of gathering darkness. But we would rather skip this part and go straight to Easter. We would rather ignore the suffering—in you and in the world—and avoid the hard work of true self-examination. Forgive us for wanting this to be bright and painless and easy, when we know that Jesus did not take the easy way, but chose the path of the Cross. Teach us the true meaning of penitence, so that we use this Lenten season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. *Silent Prayer of Confession.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The truth is this: God's love and mercy are never-ending. God knows us in our inward being; God cleanses us from our sins and shortcomings, and restores to us the joy of salvation. **Praise God! Amen**

RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

“Gloria Patri”

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

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 Music as you all take a moment to share the peace of Christ with those around you.

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MUSIC "Light One Candle for Waiting" by Michael Bedford
Sunday School Singers

c 2000 Choristers Guild | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

FIRST READING

Romans 15:4-13 (NRSV)

Pastor Ellen Dawson

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

SECOND READING

Isaiah 11:1-10 (NRSV)

Pastor Brian Janssen

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Signs of Hope"

Pastor Brian Janssen

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

**"Soon and Very Soon" by Andrae Crouch
Bethany Choir**

c. 1971 Bud John Songs/Crouch Music Corp. | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

THE RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

"Doxology"

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

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 LORD'S PRAYER

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*)

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

No. 185

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

3 Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION (*Please Stand*)

Pastor Brian Janssen

POSTLUDE



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

From

Lee and Darlene Restich to the Glory of God.

Tom and Carole Aspinall in memory of Harry and Ruth Aspinall and Charles and Irene Fox.

Julie, Chris, Jenna and Michael Foltz in memory of Billy Arbogast and our Grandparents.

Meagan, Jason, Amelia and Lorelei Smith in memory of James Smith and Robert White.

Lynne and Mike Suchoza in honor of our children and grandchildren.

Michael Barbour in memory of Phil Barbour.

Jim and Judy Davidson in memory of Art and Mary Davidson and Ed and Dorothy Haberland.

Alec Heiskell to the Glory of God.

Mark and Nancy Schneider in memory of Mary & Dick Schneider and Shelby Stewart.

Pat Mishizen in memory of deceased loved ones.

Kyli and Heidi Martin in memory of Doug and Shirley Howard.

Tim, Darlene and Erica Anderson in memory of Ralph & Gladys Anderson and Rose & Al Susa.

Brian and Lisa Janssen in honor of our parents, and in memory of John Gunner.

Nikki O'Brien in memory of Jack O'Brien and loved ones.

Corinne McCartney in memory of Eva M. Cody and John C. "Jack" O'Brien.

Nancy Yenchik in memory of Barry Yenchik.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

From

The Petrows in memory of Barbara Rank and Elinore & Joe Petrow.

The McCauslands in memory of Eleanor McCausland and Regina Miller.

The Rastetter Family in honor of our mother and grandmother, Dolly Rastetter; and in memory of our dad, Frank Rastetter, and grandparents.

Barb Mours to the Glory of God.

Ruth and Guy Doyle in memory of Barb & Jerry Phelps.

Debby Hayes in memory of Tom Hayes.

Claire Grove in memory of her father, John H. Oskin.

Carol and Tom Willhite in memory of Scott Willhite, Axel Markel and our parents.

Elaine Gray in memory of William T., William C & Martha Gray, Victor Sr., Rose, Victor A. Bebe, Victor III, and Joseph L. Iagnemma.

Kim, Terry, Adrienne, Jeff, TJ and Samantha in honor of Evelyn Barbish, and in memory of Bill Barbish.

Eric and Sherry Gregory in memory of Lisa Geuter

Bill, Beth and Sarah Paviol in memory of Gladys Cimarolli, Harry Cimarolli and Sarah Durkin.



WELCOME TO BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are delighted to have you in worship with us today!

FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - A Nursery Room, under the guidance of Nursery Director, Melina Robinson, 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, or outside of the Nursery.

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to
Bill Stephan and family on the passing of Bill's sister,
Catherine Walter, on December 11, 2023.

Ron and Cynthia Gastgeb and family on the passing of Cynthia's mother,
Helen Krause, on December 11, 2023.

Linda and Dean Karns and family on the passing of Linda's brother,
Fred Cooper, on December 12, 2023

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

The flowers in our Sanctuary this morning are presented
by Ruth and Guy Doyle in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

WANTED

Sound Board Operator Volunteers for the 8:15am service!

Qualified candidates need to be able to hear & see the front of the church from the balcony, have at least one finger to push a button on queue and stay alert and quiet during the 8:15 service. It is a very easy, but important job. We have successfully trained nine year olds and sixty year olds! Call or text Mike Segeleon at 412-389-0985 if you have any questions or would like to part of this important team!

Sound Engineer Volunteer for Thursday Evening Bloom Sessions!

Qualified candidates must be available from 6:00pm-8:30pm Thursday evenings. Skills needed are for the setup and tear down of our small portable sound system, Lift 35 lb. Speakers onto stands, run cables and plug all the parts together. Also operate a 16 channel mix board & adjust volume levels as needed during the Bloom Session. None of these tasks are hard to learn and we can train anyone who has an interest. Call or text Mike Segeleon at 412-389-0985 if you have any questions or would like to part of this ministry!

BUSINESS MANAGER, KIM MCCANN, IS OUT OF THE OFFICE UNTIL 12/27. There will be no checks processed until that time. Additionally, the deadline for general 2023 expense reimbursements is December 27. Any requests received after 12/27 will be processed in 2024.

A REMINDER THAT ALL 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED AND/OR POSTMARKED BY 12/31/23.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – Sunday, 12/24

10:00AM– Worship Service
 5:30PM – Family Service/Pageant
 7:00PM – Traditional Service

NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE – Sunday, 12/31

There will only be one service on 12/31 at 10:00AM.

There is no Sunday School or Worship and Wonder on 12/24 and 12/31.

The GRIEF GROUP, WILL BEGIN ON Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7pm in Room 224. A group discussion from “A Grace Disguised, How the Soul Grows Through Loss” by Jerry Sittser. All are welcome! Contact Sharon Salvini for a book.

BLOOD DRIVE at Bethany – Save the Date – A Blood Drive will be held at Bethany on January 7, 2024.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONS – The Fellowship of Prayer is targeting prayers each month for missions we support. For the month of December, please pray for The Jesus Film Project and Campus Life.

SARRIS CANDY – Proceeds from Sarris Candy sales in the month of December will go to Sojourner House.

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF DECEMBER 10, 2023:

	2023 YTD (\$)	2022 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 528,466	535,414	\$ (6,948)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	366,058	320,853	45,206
Investment Income **	13,407	(26,020)	39,427
Total General Fund Income	\$ 907,931	\$830,246	\$ 77,685
Year to Date Budget	959,112		
+/- Budget	\$ (51,181)		

*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.

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING - Christmas Joy Offering

The special offering envelope for December supports the Christmas Joy offering. 50% of this collection supports the Presbytery Christmas Joy offering which provides assistance to 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 be split between Living in Liberty and Harvest Street Mission organizations. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Christmas Joy" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Christmas Joy collection on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to the present and future leaders of the Presbyterian Church, Living in Liberty and Harvest Street Mission through the Christmas Joy offering!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Dec 17

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM – Sunday School
9:30AM – Parent Meeting for
Confirmation Class
12:00PM – Cookie Exchange
5:00PM – BYG Christmas Party
7:00PM – The Chosen

Monday, Dec 18

Tuesday, Dec 19

6:30PM – Men's Huddle
7:00PM – Coed Dart Ball
7:00PM - ALANON

Wednesday, Dec 20

11:30AM – Knitters
7:00PM – Choir

Thursday, Dec 21

9AM – Quilters
12:00PM – Golden Oldies
7PM – Dart Ball
7:30PM - AA

Friday, Dec 22

Saturday, Dec 23

DIAPER BANK

Sunday, Dec 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00AM – Worship
5:30PM – Family Service/Pageant
7:00PM – Traditional Service

Monday, Dec 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
Church Offices are closed

Tuesday, Dec 26

Church Office is closed

Sunday, Dec 31- NEW YEAR'S EVE

10:00AM - Worship