



# *“A New Year and a New Day”*

10:45AM  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

[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

**"Jesus Shall Reign" by Gerhard Krapf**

**Tune: Duke Street by John Hatton, 1793**

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### WELCOME

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

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

**Pastor Ellen Dawson**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly being, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

**May the Lord give strength to God's people! May the Lord bless God's people with peace!**

Let us worship God!

### OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

### HYMN *(Please Stand)*

**"We Three Kings Of Orient Are"**

**No 233**

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**1** We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

#### **Refrain:**

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

**2** Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. [Refrain]

**3** Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high. [Refrain]

**4** Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom:  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb. [Refrain]

**5** Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We come as your baptized believers, O God, confessing our sins. You send forth your Spirit, yet we do not respond to your presence. You set us apart as water is poured over us, yet our behavior in faith does not match our unique status. Christ calls us to follow; yet we disobey his one commandment. Evidence of your goodness surrounds us, yet we ignore your gracious ways. Have mercy upon us, and in your love uphold us. Above all, teach us the meaning of repentance.**

*Silent Prayer of Confession*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! God said to Jesus, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." We have a high priest who is able to sympathize with our weakness, who has been tempted as we are, yet is without sin. In Christ's name we may draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, and there find mercy and grace to help in time of need. **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

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

Pastor Brian Janssen

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

**FIRST READING****Mark 1:4-11****Pastor Ellen Dawson**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**SECOND READING****Genesis 1:1-5****Pastor Brian Janssen**

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.****SERMON****"A New Year and a New Day"****Pastor Brian Janssen****COMMISSIONING OF CONFIRMATION MENTORS****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH****Question 1 Heidelberg Catechism**

What is your only comfort in life and death?

**That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head, indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him. Amen**



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

Each person is asked to **hold the bread until all have received it**. We will then partake of it together, signifying our unity as the Body of Christ. Each person is asked to **drink the juice as soon as he or she receives it**, signifying the personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## WE ARE SENT

### HYMN *(Please Stand)*

### “O Sing A Song of Bethlehem”

**No 242**

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**1** O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there, and of the news that came to them from angels in the air: the light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today; of Jesus’ birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.

**2** O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy, O sing of fragrant flowers’ breath, and of the sinless Boy: for now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow; now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.

**3** O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill, of him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still: for though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll, when faith has heard the Master’s word, falls peace upon the soul.

**4** O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay; of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away: for he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave, and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

## **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.

## **NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**The flowers in our Sanctuary this morning are presented**  
*for Sylvia Williard from Deb Gossic and family*

**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY in 2024** – a Sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center, or contact the church office. The cost for a vase is \$30.00.

### **HELP WANTED**

USHERS -- A **BIG** thank you to everyone who ushered this past year and a continued thank you to many who will continue to do so again this year. However, there is still an opportunity for two more people to answer the call and serve the Lord and Bethany at our 10:45am service. If you are one of those people, call Judy Davidson or the church office.

### **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 be a 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 and 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!

**2024-2025 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION** -Preschool registration for currently enrolled families and church members begins on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration will open for the public on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Learn more: [www.bethanypresby.org/preschool](http://www.bethanypresby.org/preschool)

## **PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS**

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PROGRAM**, will be held January 15, 2024, at New Life Fellowship Church, 56 Prestley Road, Bridgeville, at 6:30 PM. The wonderful voice of Zanetta Wingfield Butler, an internationally known gospel singer from Hendersonville, PA, will be featured and local pastors will do a theme-based community prayer. In addition, the 6<sup>th</sup> Unsung Community Achievement Award and first ever Youth Award will be presented.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

***A listing of our Sunday School Classes can be found on the screens in the Welcome Center.***

**WORSHIP AND WONDER** – Children 4 years old through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are welcome to follow the Worship and Wonder Teachers to the classroom (rm 234) after the Children’s sermon each week during our 10:45AM service. All helpers need to be in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above. Helpers also need to pre-register by calling Debby Hayes at 412-266-0982.

## **CHURCH FINANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023:**

	<b>2023 YTD (\$)</b>	<b>2022 YTD (\$)</b>	<b>+/- (\$)</b>
Contributions*	\$ 611,515	624,689	\$ (13,174)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	367,308	330,000	37,308
Investment Income **	13,407	(30,850)	44,257
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 992,230</b>	<b>\$923,839</b>	<b>\$ 68,391</b>
Year to Date Budget	1,023,670		
<b>+/- Budget</b>	<b>\$ (31,439)</b>		

\*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.

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



**WEEK AHEAD**

**Sunday, Jan 7**

**BLOOD DRIVE**

8:15AM and 10:45AM– Worship with Communion

9:30AM – Sunday School

12:00PM- Confirmation Class

5:00PM - BYG

**Monday, Jan 8**

5:30-8:30PM – Upward practices

6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout

6:45PM – Session Team Meetings

**Tuesday, Jan 9**

5:30-8:30PM – Upward practices

6:30PM – Men’s Huddle

7:00PM – Grief Class Book Study

7:00PM – Coed Dart Ball

7:00PM - ALANON

**Wednesday, Jan 10**

10:00AM – Fellowship of Prayer

11:30AM – Knitters

5:30-7:30PM – Upward practices

7:00PM – Choir

7:00PM - Scouts

**Thursday, Jan 11**

9:00AM – Quilters

9:00AM - MOPS

5:30-8:30PM – Upward practices

6:30PM – Bloom Service

7PM – MOPS Evening Group

7:00PM – Dart Ball

7:30PM - AA

**Friday, Jan 12**

**Saturday, Jan 13**

**Sunday, Jan 14**

8:15AM and 10:45AM– Worship

9:30AM – Sunday School

12:00PM- Confirmation Class

5:00PM – BYG

6:00PM – MOPS Steering Committee