



*“Lent in a Secular Age:  
III. Authentic Discipleship”*

10:45AM  
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 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

**"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee" by Warriner and Dearle**

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### WELCOME

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

### EXTINGUISHING OF THE WREATH

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

**Pastor Ellen Dawson**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

**The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Let us worship God!

### OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

### HYMN *(Please Stand)*

**"Gather Us In"**

**No. 649**

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**1** Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

**2** We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

**3** Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here in this place the new light is shining, now is God present, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, we confess that we are an impatient and selfish people. When you offer us the promise of a new future, like the Israelites, we complain that things aren't moving fast enough. When you provide for our needs, we complain that it isn't enough. And when our bad attitudes and negative outlooks cause us to stumble, we blame you. Holy God, forgive our sinful ways. Teach us to be patient. Instruct us to be grateful. Guide us to be responsible and humble. As we turn ourselves around and look to the cross, let us experience your grace and your beautiful gift of new life. In the name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

How great it is to know that our Lord is full of mercy and grace, ready and willing to restore to us the joy of salvation. **We proclaim with gratitude: our God sustains us and delivers us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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

Debby Hayes

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

**FIRST READING****Galatians 5:1;13-25****Pastor Ellen Dawson**

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

**SECOND READING****Luke 9:57-62****Pastor Brian Janssen**

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON****"Lent in a Secular Age:  
III. Authentic Discipleship"****Pastor Brian Janssen**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the Confession of 1967(9.52)

The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the reconciliation of men with God and with one another, in which they joyfully eat and drink together at the table of their Savior. Jesus Christ gave his church this remembrance of his dying for sinful men so that by participation in it they have communion with him and with all who shall be gathered to him. Partaking in him as they eat the bread and drink the wine in accordance with Christ's appointment, they receive from the risen and living Lord the benefits of his death and resurrection. They rejoice in the foretaste of the kingdom which he will bring to consummation at his promised coming, and go out from the Lord's Table with courage and hope for the service to which he has called them. Amen.

## WE RESPOND

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**THE OFFERTORY** "Lenten Meditation" by Jay Althouse Bethany Choir

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**THE RESPONSE** (*Please Stand*) "Doxology"

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**

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) "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" vs. 1,2,3,5 No. 592**

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1 Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."  
Lest the church neglect its mission and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

**2** Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."  
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,  
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

**3** Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."  
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,  
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty:  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

**5** Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,  
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

**BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

**POSTLUDE**

## **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.

**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.

## **PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS**

**CREATION VBS – Beginning March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10AM** - Rome wasn't built in a day and neither is Bethany's VBS! It's time to get the crafters together and start making some awesome decor for SCUBA - this year's Vacation Bible School theme! Join Celina and Meagan as they host Creation VBS every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 10- 12PM in The Youth Lounge. This invitation is open, anyone can come when their schedule has an opening. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help, ability to use a stapler, scissors and a hot glue gun. We hope to see you there!

### **ACTIVITIES DURING LENT**

During the season of Lent, we have organized the weeks according to the "7 Acts of Mercy," a list of actions Jesus gave as a directive to his disciples in Matthew 25 (and other places in Scripture). They are based on Jesus' teachings when he speaks of the judgment of the nations and are focused on the physical needs of others.

#### **Week 4: March 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**

WELCOME THE STRANGER *Matthew 25:35*

This week, make an effort to introduce yourself to someone in your neighborhood: the person who walks their dog past your house, the mail carrier, a cashier, or an actual neighbor you haven't met yet. Also, be aware of the many refugees who have come to our city and learn more about the ministries that support them such as Hello Neighbor ([www.helloneighbor.io](http://www.helloneighbor.io)) and Thrive Pittsburgh ([www.thrivepittsburgh.org](http://www.thrivepittsburgh.org)).

#### **Week 5 March 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>**

CLOTHE THE NAKED *Matthew 25:36*

This week, go through your closet and donate some clothes to the Washington City Mission Thrift Stores! They accept donations from 9am-4pm, or you can drop them in one of their donation bins. For more information and locations, go to [www.citymission.org](http://www.citymission.org)



**BYG: UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BETHANY YOUTH GROUP.** All 6th - 12th graders are invited to join us every Sunday! Mark your calendars for these events!

**TODAY – 3/3-** Bowl for the chance to win the first annual BYG bowling championship and earn the coveted BYG Bowling Trophy - Contact Abbie for more information!

**Sunday March 10th, 5:00pm-6:30pm** BYG Group Night in the Youth Lounge! This weeks' Group Night is BYG Choice! We will discuss the topic and eat the food that YOU chose on February 18th!

**Sunday March 17th, 5:00pm-6:30pm** All-The-Days Party! Dress up as your favorite holiday, and bring your favorite holiday dish - we are celebrating ALL of the holidays!! Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, and even random National Holidays - join us for our All-the-Days party!

**Sunday March 24th, 5:00pm-6:30pm,** BYG Group Night in the Youth Lounge - this week is Easter themed! We will have an Easter Egg Hunt, and talk all about Easter! Come join us for a great way to kick off Holy Week and get ready for Easter.

**Sunday March 31st - Easter! BYG will NOT be meeting on Easter.**

Students & Parents, if you haven't already, you can join our Remind for text updates about BYG! Text the message @byg2024 to the phone number 81010 - If you have any issues just contact Abbie!

**BLOOD DRIVE – Sunday, March 24.** The Deacons will be hosting Vitalant again for a Blood Drive on Palm Sunday, 3/24. Please consider donating. The need is urgent. Appointments can be made on Vitalant's website- [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org).

**MEN'S RETREAT** at Oglebay, May 3-4. Contact Alec Heiskell for additional information.

**VBS** - Go on an undersea adventure with us to "SCUBA VBS - Diving Into Friendship with God"! For children age 4 through entering 5th grade. June 17-21 from 9am - noon. Youth & adult volunteers are needed! Please contact Celina Farabaugh, if you have any questions or to sign up as a volunteer, at [cfarabaugh19@gmail.com](mailto:cfarabaugh19@gmail.com) or 724-554-6370.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, June 22, 2024 --The Annual Bethany Church Golf Outing at Ft Cherry Golf Club. (The Saturday after Father's Day.)

## **MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**HELP WANTED - Regular Greeters at the Front Door of the church (Washington Ave. side).** We are looking for people who can help for 15-20 minutes before church to welcome people as they come in. It's a great way to be involved without a large time commitment. Email [membership@bethanypresby.org](mailto:membership@bethanypresby.org) if you can help or for more information.

**DONATIONS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** items have been set up in The Welcome Center. The items we are collecting will be used to create decorations. If you happen to have any of the following items at home that you're not using, feel free to donate them. Please note; unless specifically discussed with Celina or Meagan donated items will not be returned.

- Cardboard Rolls from: Paper Towels, toilet paper, vinyl, aluminum foil, cling wrap, wrapping paper, etc.
- Clean Pool Noodles
- Cupcake liners - any size
- sea shells, sand dollars, coral
- Crepe Paper Streamers in shades of green
- Small to Medium shallow sized boxes
- Underwater trinkets/ scuba or snorkeling gear

**SARRIS CANDY** –The Sarris Candy sales proceeds for March are going to the Neighborhood Academy.

## **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 FEBRUARY 28, 2024:**

	<b>2024 YTD (\$)</b>	<b>2023 YTD (\$)</b>	<b>+/- (\$)</b>
Contributions*	\$ 79,001	89,693	\$ (10,692)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	55,000	38,344	16,656
Investment Income **	(1,498)	9,237	(10,735)
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 132,503</b>	<b>\$137,273</b>	<b>\$ (4,770)</b>
Year to Date Budget	140,956		
<b>+/- Budget</b>	<b>\$ (8,453)</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.

## **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, Mar 3**

8:15AM and 10:45AM– Worship with  
Communion  
9:30AM – Sunday School  
12:00PM- Confirmation Class  
5:00PM – BYG Bowling

### **Monday, Mar 4**

6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout

### **Tuesday, Mar 5**

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

### **Wednesday, Mar 6**

10:00AM – Fellowship of Prayer  
11:30AM – Knitters  
7:00PM – Choir  
7:00PM - Scouts

### **Thursday, Mar 7**

9:00AM – Quilters  
10:00AM – Creation VBS  
12:00PM - Rotary  
7:00PM – Dart Ball  
7:30PM - AA

### **Friday, Mar 8**

### **Saturday, Mar 9**

11:30AM - Knitters

### **Sunday, Mar 10**

#### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**

8:15AM and 10:45AM– Worship  
9:30AM – Sunday School  
12:00PM- Confirmation Class  
5:00PM – BYG  
6:00PM- MOPS Steering Committee