



# *“Revealed To The Nations”*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025  
10:00AM

[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

**"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"**

arr. Diane Bish; cpr 2013 Lorenz Publishing

### WELCOME

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

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

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

We gather as people drawn by a light not our own.

**The light of Christ shines in the world.**

From distant places, the nations come seeking hope.

**God's glory rises and calls us together.**

Gold and incense remind us that this child is King and God.

**We come to offer our lives in worship.**

Let us rejoice with great joy.

**Let us worship the Christ who has been revealed.**

### OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

### HYMN *(Please Stand)*

**"Once in Royal David's City"**

**No. 183**

**1** Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

**2** He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and His shelter was  
a stable, and His cradle was a stall: with the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth  
our Savior holy.

**3** Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak, and  
helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew: and he feels for all our sadness, and he  
shares in all our gladness.

**4** And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love; for that Child so  
dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above, and He leads His children on  
to the place where He is gone.

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

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

Holy and revealing God, you call us to arise and shine, yet we confess that we  
often hide in fear or comfort. You invite us to follow the light of Christ, but we  
cling to paths that feel safer and more familiar. Like the Magi, we seek you— yet  
unlike them, we hesitate to offer our whole lives in return. Forgive us when we  
resist your leading, when we ignore your light in the world, and when we fail to

**rejoice at the wideness of your grace. Renew us by your mercy, that we may rise, follow, and worship with joy. Amen. *Silent Confession***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

Hear the good news: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. In Jesus Christ, God's mercy has been revealed to all nations. **In Christ, we are forgiven and set free. Thanks be to God.**

**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 Brian Janssen**

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.**  
Let us share the peace of Christ with our neighbor.

**WE LISTEN**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**SECOND READING**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the Magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and

there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**“Revealed To The Nations”**

**Pastor Brian Janssen**

## **WE RESPOND**

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

#### **THE OFFERTORY**

#### **"In the Bleak Midwinter"**

arr. Douglas E. Wagner; Tune: Cranham by Gustav Holst; cpr 2012 Lorenz 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)*

#### **“The First Noel”**

**No. 229**

**1** The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

**2** They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

**3** And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**"Hark the Herald Angels Sing!"**

arr. David Cherwien; Tune by Mendelssohn; cpr 2006 Wayne Leupold Editions

## **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.

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

Today and Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> there is no Worship and Wonder.

Today's ushers are Deb Perkins, Pat Mishizen, and Tom and Carole Aspinall.

A warm welcome and many thanks to our guest organist, Rebecca Gard. We thank you for sharing your incredible gifts with us!

### **PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS**

**PRESCHOOL GINGERBREAD CONTEST** - The Preschool 4 year old's class with Mrs. Rubritz won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Preschool/Kindergarten category in the Pittsburgh Gingerbread House Competition! The house will be on display downtown until New Year's Eve. *"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child."*



**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 DECEMBER 21, 2025**

*Thank you for your continued support.*

	2025 YTD (\$)	2024 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 553,911	\$ 533,027	\$ 20,884
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	315,765	333,875	(18,110)
Investment Income **	14,598	36,284	(21,686)
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 884,275</b>	<b>\$ 903,186</b>	<b>\$(18,911)</b>
Year to Date Budget	976,791		
<b>+/- Budget</b>	<b>\$ (92,517)</b>		



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giving

\*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.*

**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 28**

10:00AM – Worship service

**Monday, December 29**

6:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

**Tuesday, December 30**

7:00PM – ALANON

**Wednesday, December 31**

**New Year's Eve**

11:30AM – Knitters

**Thursday, January 1**

**New Year's Day**

Office Closed

7:30PM – AA

**Friday, January 2**

**Saturday, January 3**

**Sunday, January 4**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**No Worship and Wonder**

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship

9:30AM - Sunday School