



“Formed for Faith”

10:45AM
SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

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

"The Risen Christ" by Gerald Peterson

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WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Ellen Dawson

Praise the Lord! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

**We will praise you for your mighty deeds, O God, according
to your surpassing greatness!**

Praise the Lord with the sounds of the trumpet, with tambourine and the dance!

We will praise you with strings and pipe and loud clashing cymbals.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"Christ is Alive"

No. 312

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1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

3 In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

Loving God. You walked out of a grave to give creation new meaning. We confess that we continue to walk back into the graves of old ways of living. Help us to look to you so that we might live resurrected lives, in which old prejudices, and old habits will be broken, so that new life can emerge. Keep us from embracing too often a death that still stings; so that we might live a life that flourishes.

Silent Prayer of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness. He will not always accuse; neither will he stay angry forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us for our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his loving kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

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

Debby Hayes

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

FIRST READING

Psalm 150

Pastor Ellen Dawson

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING**John 20:19-31****Pastor Brian Janssen**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**"Formed for Faith"****Pastor Brian Janssen****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH****Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE RESPOND**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE OFFERTORY "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" arr. Craig Curry
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*) **“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”**

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1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

BENEDICTION

Pastor Brian Janssen

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, 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.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are presented by Janet Jones in loving memory of her sister, Judy Tresino Parker.

Prayers for our College Students

Tanner Zissis - Senior at University of Central Florida

Kathryn Nagy - Senior at University of Pittsburgh

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the Gastgeb, Duffill and Zaloznik families on the death of Sandra Gastgeb on March 28, 2024.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

BYG: UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BETHANY YOUTH GROUP. All 6th - 12th graders are invited to join us every Sunday! BYG is going to **Urban Assault on Sunday April 14th!** – RSVP to Abbie by 4/7 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.

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 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

MISSION TEAM SOJOURNER HOUSE COLLECTION - The Mission Team will be holding a collection until April 28th for Sojourner House. Collection containers are located under the Mission Team Bulletin Board in the Welcome Center. The following items will be collected: Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Feminine Products, Paper Towels, Laundry Soap, Toilet Paper, Cleaning Products.

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 if you can help or for more information.

DONATIONS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: A collection area for donated items has 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
- Crepe Paper Streamers in shades of green
- Small to Medium shallow (Amazon like) sized boxes
- Underwater trinkets/ scuba or snorkeling gear
- Hot Glue Sticks – full or mini

SARRIS CANDY –The Sarris Candy sales proceeds for April are going to Camp Crestfield.

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 2nd 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 6th grade and above. Helpers also need to pre-register by calling Debby Hayes at 412-266-0982.

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MARCH 31, 2024:

	2024 YTD (\$)	2023 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 137,284	140,661	\$ (3,378)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	82,500	62,293	20,207
Investment Income **	7,083	4,451	2,632
Total General Fund Income	\$ 226,866	\$207,405	\$ 19,461
Year to Date Budget	230,426		
+/- Budget	\$ (3,560)		

*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.

APRIL SPECIAL OFFERINGS - Bethany Education Fund and Camp Fund

The special offering envelopes for April support the Bethany Education Fund (blue envelope) and Camp Fund (yellow envelope). The Bethany Education Fund provides scholarships to Bethany high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education or training, and the Camp Fund provides scholarships to youth attending Christian summer camp programs as approved by the Discipleship team. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to these special offerings either by selecting "Bethany Education Fund" or "Camp Fund" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Bethany Education Fund or Camp Fund on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to these valuable scholarship programs for the youth of Bethany!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Apr 7

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

Monday, Apr 8

6:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout
6:45PM – Session Teams

Tuesday, Apr 9

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

Wednesday, Apr 10

11:30AM - Knitters
7:00PM - Choir
7:00PM - Scouts

Thursday, Apr 11

9:00AM – Quilters
9:00AM – Morning MOPS
11:30AM – Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom Service
7:00PM – Dart Ball
7:00PM – Evening MOPS
7:30PM - AA

Friday, Apr 12

7:00PM – Young Adults Group

Saturday, Apr 13

11:30AM – Knitters

Sunday, Apr 14

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