



“Delighting in the Darkness”

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026
10:45AM

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 “Once in Royal David’s City” Electric Guitar: Brian Hayes

WELCOME Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please Stand*) Pastor Larry Ruby

In the beginning was the Word—
And the Word still speaks life to the world.
God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.
We gather to receive grace upon grace.
The light shines in the darkness.
And the darkness has not overcome it.
Come, people of God, chosen and beloved.
We come to worship the God who dwells among us.

OPENING PRAYER (*Please Stand*) Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN (*Please Stand*) “Angels From the Realms of Glory” No. 189

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1 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth; you who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; you have seen the natal star: [Refrain]

4 Saints before the alter bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Larry Ruby

Gracious God, you have spoken light into the darkness, yet we confess that we often prefer shadows. You have blessed us with grace upon grace, yet we live as though we must earn your love. We turn inward instead of outward, cling to fear instead of hope, and resist the transforming work of your Spirit. Forgive us, O God. Restore us to the joy of your salvation, and remake us as people who live in the light of Christ, the Word made flesh, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, God has made known the fullness of grace and truth. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and claimed as God's own. **Thanks be to 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**Pastor Larry Ruby**

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 Larry Ruby****FIRST READING****Ephesians 1:3-14****Pastor Larry Ruby**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

SECOND READING**John 1:1-14****Pastor Brian Janssen**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not

overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Delighting In The Darkness”

Pastor Brian Janssen

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY “Sing, Rejoice a Song of Praise”

– from the motet “Exsultate, Jubilate” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; arr. John Leavitt; cpr 2019 Hal Leonard LLC

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

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 - People may now come forward.

Communion servers will serve from the front of the church and each row will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and cup. For those who are unable to come forward, communion will be still be offered to you at your seat after the standing participants are done.

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 always.

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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE

"Every Valley"

Bethany Choir

(excerpts) by John Ness Beck; cpr 1976 Beckenhorst Press

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 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 there is no Worship and Wonder.

Today’s ushers are Tom and Carole Aspinall, Dolly McCrea and Hannah Farabaugh.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION - The 8th 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. Thank you!

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CHURCH FINANCES AS OF DECEMBER 28, 2025

Thank you for your continued support.

| | 2025 YTD (\$) | 2024 YTD (\$) | +/- (\$) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Contributions* | \$ 574,758 | \$ 557,241 | \$ 17,517 |
| General Fund Subsidies (Transfers) | 316,390 | 337,750 | (21,360) |
| Investment Income ** | 14,598 | 36,284 | (21,686) |
| Total General Fund Income | \$ 905,747 | \$ 931,275 | \$(25,528) |
| Year to Date Budget | 1,014,612 | | |
| +/- Budget | \$(108,865) | | |



*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.

QR Code
for online
giving

December Special Offering - Initial Offering

The special offering envelope for January supports the Initial Offering. This collection helps to defray the cost of the church offering envelopes.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Initial Offering" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Initial Offering on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to Initial Offering!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, January 4
COMMUNION SUNDAY
No Worship and Wonder
8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School

Monday, January 5
6:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout
6:30PM - Men’s Huddle Group

Tuesday, January 6
7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, January 7
10:00AM - Fellowship of Prayer
11:30AM – Knitters
12:30PM - Hand Chimes
6:30PM – Troop 2 Scouts
7:00PM – Choir Practice

Thursday, January 8
9:00AM – Quilters
9:00AM – Morning MomCo.
12:00PM - Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom
7:00PM – Evening MomCo.
7:00PM - Upward Coaches Orientation
7:00PM - Dartball
7:30PM – AA

Friday, January 9

Saturday, January 10
9:00AM – New Elder and Deacon
Training
11:00AM - Knitters

Sunday, January 11
8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after
the second service
5:00PM - BYG Group Night