

**Bethany Memorial Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
November 8, 2020  
Invitation Sunday**

**Prelude  
Welcome  
Announcements**

Brenda Hart  
Jan Forsty

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP  
HYMN OF PRAISE: #284 vs 1,3**

Jan Forsty

*"For All the Saints"*

Here in this place, the new life 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.

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.

Gather 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.

## INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jan Forsty

*Our Father/Mother 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.*

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.  
P: And, also with you.

## THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

## JOYS AND CONCERNS PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Sharon Watkins

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:1-13

Jan Forsty

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids<sup>[a]</sup> took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Brenda Hart

## SERMON

"In the Meantime, Faith, Hope and Love"

Rev. Watkins

## WE PARTAKE AT GOD'S HOLY TABLE

## CALL TO OFFERING

Jan Forsty  
*Stewardship and Finance Chair*

## **DOXOLOGY AND OFFERING PRAYER**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.*

## **COMMUNION INVITATION**

Debra Hull

## **THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER OF THE ELDER**

Debra Hull

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **FELLOWSHIP OF COMMUNION**

*Please partake of the bread and cup – one in the Spirit.*

## **INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

### **GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*"Give Me Oil"*

Give me oil in my lamp,  
Keep me burning,  
Give me oil in my lamp I pray.  
Give me oil in my lamp,  
Keep me burning,  
Keep me burning 'til the break of day!

(CHORUS)

Sing Hosannah, Sing Hosannah,  
Sing Hosannah to the King of Kings!  
Sing Hosannah, Sing Hosannah,  
Sing Hosannah to the King!

Give me hope in my heart,  
Keep it burning,  
Give me hope in my heart I pray.  
Give me hope in my heart,

Keep it burning,  
Keep it burning 'til the break of day! (CHORUS)

Give me joy in my heart,  
Keep me praising  
Give me joy in my heart I pray.  
Give me joy in my heart,  
Keep me praising,  
Keep me praising 'till the break of day! (CHORUS)

Give me oil in my lamp,  
Keep me burning,  
Give me oil in my lamp I pray.  
Give me oil in my lamp,  
Keep me burning,  
Keep me burning 'til the break of day!  
Keep me burning 'til the break of day!

**BENEDICTION**  
**POSTLUDE**

Rev. Watkins  
Brenda Hart

**When entering and exiting the church and sanctuary, please refrain from gathering and socializing in the narthex. And as much as we would like to praise God with our voices during these difficult times of Covid-19, please refrain from singing hymns aloud.**

**Thank you for worshipping with us today!**

Minister	Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
Liturgist	Jan Forsty
Elder	Debra Hull
Music	Vicki NeCastro
Special Music	Brenda Hart
Videographer	Connie McVicar
Greeter	Penny Tittle

## **PRAYER LIST**

Christian love and sympathy to Jackie, Robert, Megan, Regan, and Mollie Andrews, on the passing of Robert (Bob) Andrews, husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather.

Christian love and sympathy to Bobbi and Sandra, extended family and friends, of Joanne Sykes, who passed away at home on November 1, 2020.

Charlotte Chambers

Mike Gostlin, son-in-law of Larry and Carol Grimes (husband to Becca)

Tony Mitch

Ed Rodgers (Father of Vicki NeCastro)

Jeanne Cobb

Hilary Slacum

David Gnatek (brother-in-law of Holly Hillgardner)

Nancy Pietrangelo (sister of Penny Tittle)

Glenn Rodgers (cousin of Vicki NeCastro)

Tammy Ritchea

Ruth Tye, Jeannie Sarg Tye, and Jay Tye

Jack Hoffman

Ned George (father of David) and family

Perry Jones, Jr.

Gary and Vonnie Larson

Barb Stevenson, mother of Kim Stevenson

Jeffrey Yost

Shana Hatzopoulos

Sharon Poyneer (sister of Vonnie Larson)

Mary Sutherland (sister of Pat Sutherland)

Holly Cramblet Bowman

Caden Knisley

Ellen Sanford

Mary Jane Jackson

Holly, Frank, and Sharley Hillgardner

Elizabeth DeJong

Donna Norman (Becky Ayers' sister)

Dottie Smith

Linda Owens Walter

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A reminder! **Pledge cards are due by today, Sunday, November 8.** These can be mailed or brought to the church. It is important we receive all pledges by the deadline so that the 2021 budget can be determined in time for a congregational vote in December.

**Bible Study** will take place **Monday, November 9, at 7:15** on ZOOM. Sharon Watkins will lead the discussion and will focus on the following scripture.

Matthew 25:14-30

I Thessalonians 5:1-11;

Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11) 12

All those who have been attending will receive a ZOOM invitation. If you would like to join in, let the church office know and you will be sent a ZOOM invitation. You are welcome to join!

**A Congregational Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.** All Board members should plan on attending. All congregational members are invited.

**Mid-Week Prayer services** continue. For those of you on the BMC email list, you will receive an email with the Zoom invitation and are welcome to join. If you would like a link texted to you, please contact the church office. Prayer meetings are at 6:30 on Thursday evenings. If you have a prayer request, contact the church office.

**Food Pantry** – Thank you to those who have supported BMC's food pantry. The need is never-ending, so we invite you to drop off nonperishable food items as you wish.

**Christmas Already?** Well, contrary to what you see in the stores, Christmas is not here yet. However, we are preparing for the annual trip to Wilkinsburg to participate in what is this year being called **"Santa's Open House."** As in past years, it will still feature photos with Santa, lunch, games, and shopping, all in a safe (from Covid-19) way. **The event is on December 5 from 1:00 until 5:00 pm.** Volunteers are expected to arrive by 11:30 pm to help set up and participate in training.

You can help in several ways. If you are interested in attending, call Deb Hull. You can donate small prizes for the shopping event. (More info provided below). You can donate money to the Wilkinsburg church through BMC or for the purchase of gifts for the event. And finally, you can pray for our friends in Wilkinsburg as well as for the success of this event.

This year all donated prizes must be in its original packaging. No loose toys can be accepted. No part of the toy can be exposed. This is, of course, for the safety of all.