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## BETHANY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

*“Where Blessings Happen”*

10453 Springwood Drive | El Paso, TX 79925 | [www.bcc-elp.org](http://www.bcc-elp.org)

office 915.592.5977 | Senior Minister Robert Arnold |

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**LOVING** *God.* **LIVING** *for Christ.* **LISTENING** *to God's Spirit.*

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February 23, 2020

10:45 a.m.

Last Sunday before Lent

**THE GATHERING TIME**

"Please enter the sanctuary in reverence and prayer and leave  
it with joy and fellowship."

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**THE PRELUDE**

Reflection-Heller

Ruth Crenshaw

Come We That Love the Lord- Lowry

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND HOLY SCRIPTURES**

**THE WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

Please fill out the welcome sheet and place in the offering plate when passed.

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**† THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**C: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

L: The Lord says: "Be still and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."

**C: The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

## **† THE INVOCATION**

God, our Protector and Friend, we come to You amidst a troubled world. Yet, we place our focus on You. We place our trust in You. Mighty are you to save us. Let us worship You and give You glory as we take refuge in You. Let our faith and courage be rekindled and our hope firmly grounded in You when we emerge on the other side of this hour. In Christ's name, Amen.

## **WORSHIP THROUGH PRAISE AND PRAYER**

### **† THE HYMN OF PRAISE CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

How Firm a Foundation

No.618(vs.1,5)

### **THE CALL TO PRAYER**

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Bethany Choir

## **WORSHIP THROUGH MEDITATION**

### **† THE SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Matthew 5:10-12, 1 Peter 4:12-19

### **THE SERMON**

Unexpected Blessings for Those Persecuted on

Account of Righteousness

Pastor Bob Arnold

## **WORSHIP THROUGH DECISION AND DEDICATION**

### **† THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

*(If you desire to make a public profession of belief in Jesus Christ or to transfer your membership to Bethany Christian Church, please come forward as we sing this hymn.)*

### **† THE INVITATION HYMN HEALING MINISTRY**

"Are Ye Able," Said the Master

No 621(vs.1,4)

## **WORSHIP THOUGH COMMUNION**

† **THE COMMUNION**      What a Friend We Have in Jesus      No.585(vs. 1,3)

† **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In unison: “I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and my Savior.”

**THE COMMUNION MEDITATION**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE COMMUNION PRAYERS**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

(All believers in Jesus, the Christ, are welcome to share in the Lord’s Supper. Please receive the bread and the cup as they are distributed and return the empty cup to the tray.)

**WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

**THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

† **THE DOXOLOGY** No. 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† **THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

† **THE HYMN OF SENDING**      *Blest Be Tie That Binds*      No. 433(vs.1,2)

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

† **THE BENEDICTION**

† **THE POSTLUDE**      Postlude in G Minor- Blake

† *Please stand as you are able*

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

**ELDERS:** Giovanna Arnold(C) Dale Edens (B)

**GREETERS:** Dale Edens

**PREPARER:** Linda Phillips

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Dennis Ruffner

**REFRESHMENTS:** Giovanna Arnold

**SERVING:** Lucy Snelson, Donald Thompson  
Luis Meza

## STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

**SENIOR PASTOR:** Rev. Robert Arnold

**AUDIO:** William See

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Samantha Flores

**PIANIST:** Anna Longo

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:** Chris Marquez

**ORGANIST:** Ruth Crenshaw

**MONDAY'S BIBLE STUDY:** Jerry De Frank

**SUNDAY DAYCARE:** Laura Perez, Lupe Diaz

**VIDEO:** Ken Blystone

## LAST SUNDAY RECAP

**Attendance:**70

**Tithes and Offering:** \$2,829.50

**Sunday School:** \$10.00

**Week of Compassion:** \$90.00

**Total:** \$6,876.64

**Kitchen Remodeling:** \$170.00

**Military Stick:** \$25.00

**Noah's Nook Rent:** \$3,752.14

**Pastor Bob's Bible Study** is on **Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.** in the **meeting room**. The Gospel of John will be wrapping up on either February 25 or March 3. Make sure to join us for our new session. If anyone has any suggestions for a new scripture book for the next session, please let email or call the office.

**Monday Morning Bible Study** starts at **9:30 a.m.** in the **Meeting Room**.

February 17 - Zechariah 5-8

February 24 - Zechariah 9-11



### 2020 Nominating Committee

We need to form the nominating committee for 2020. To complete the committee, we still need 2 deacons and 1 member from the congregation who is not an official board member. If you would like to serve on the committee, please let Jerry De Frank know. Unless there is an unforeseen circumstance, our work starts in the summer.

**Ash Wednesday Service** will be on **Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.**

## **Lent Challenge – 40 Day Challenge of Preparing Your Heart for Easter**



Lent this year is from February 26 to April 11. *Spiritually Hungry* has developed this challenge focusing on six unique spiritual practices that will help you connect and reflect on God. The purpose of a weekly spiritual practice is to align your heart on a single spiritual discipline for the entire week. The six practices are prayer, fasting, scripture saturation, journaling, identifying with Jesus' pain and silence. If you are interested in participating in this challenge (or just checking it out first), contact Jerry De Frank at [jdefrank@elp.rr.com](mailto:jdefrank@elp.rr.com) and it will be emailed to you.

## **FAITH COMES BY HEARING**

The Bethany Christian Men's Fellowship is sponsoring the outreach program, "Military Bible Sticks," a small personal listening device with the Audio New Testament and selected Psalms. Again, this year we are asking for your help in purchasing Bible Sticks to be given to chaplains to give out to our troops. Whatever we provide, there is matching donor funds that can double our gifts. Each Bible stick is \$25.00. Please make checks out to Bethany Christian Church. See Mike De Frank or Samantha if you have questions.

## **CAPERS**

CAPERS is a time when we gather for fellowship around the table and enjoy some fun and laughter. This month's gathering will meet on **Thursday, March 5th, 11:30 a.m. at Julio's, 8050 Gateway East**. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex for those interested. Our March's host is Tanya McCollum. Hope to see you there!

## **Men's Meeting**

The Men's gathering is on **Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room**. This is a pot-luck meal; bring your favorite dish and be ready for a great time of fellowship and sharing. All men are welcome.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*"If one member suffers, we all suffer together. If one member is honored, we all rejoice together."  
(1Corinthians 12:26)*

<u><b>Week Ending February 22</b></u>	<u><b>Week Ending February 15</b></u>	<u><b>Week Ending February 8</b></u>
Ruben & Chris Martinez	Michelle Greasby	Dale Edens
Judy Dively	Giovanna Arnold	Amy Canales (Dodie Wicker's daughter)
Michelle Greasby	Wanda Gibbons	Wayne Salguero
Bob Snelson	Carol Frank	Terrorist attack in London
Carol Frank	John Estes	Earthquake in Caribbean
Wanda Gibbons	Rachael Mauldin	Corona virus
John Estes	Gloria Holguin	Michelle Greasby
Giovanna Arnold	Eric Chilson (Nancy & Fred Smith)	Eddie Flores (Samantha Flores's husband)
Rachael Mauldin	Christopher Hulsey (Dennis & Beatriz Ruffner's grandson)	Donna Buckman
Gloria Holguin	Bill Baldwin (Larry & Bonnie Baldwin's son)	Giovanna Arnold
Anne Angel (Giovanna Arnold's sister)	Eddie Flores (Samantha Flore's husband)	Carol Beatty
Sigrid Wertmann (Skip Rutherford's sister)	Hazel Thompson	Wanda Gibbons
Dale Edens	Betty Peck	Carol Frank
David Kotter (George Myer's nephew)	Adam McNamee (Donald & Teresa Thompson's son-in-law)	John Estes
Bill Baldwin (Larry & Bonnie Baldwin's son)	Amber Lopez	Rachael & Casey Mauldin
Eric Chilson (Fred & Nancy Smith's son)		Gloria Holguin
		Eric Chilson (Fred & Nancy Smith's son)
		Christopher Hulsey

Christopher Hulsey  
(Dennis & Beatriz Ruffner's  
grandson)

Joey Merrifield  
(Lupe Diaz's nephew)

Terry Ladewig  
(Joyce & Bob Nenni's son-  
in-law)

Our violent culture with its  
lack of respect for the value  
of life

(Dodie Wicker's  
granddaughter)

Carol Beatty

Judy Dively

David Kotter  
(George Myer's nephew)

Samantha Flores

(Dennis & Bea Ruffner's  
grandson)

Bill Baldwin  
(Larry & Bonnie Baldwin's  
son)

Darla Scott  
(Giovanna Arnold's friend)

Juliana Hulsey  
(Dennis & Beatriz Ruffner's  
daughter)

Mando Juarez  
(Wayne Salguero's friend)

Adam McNamee  
(Donald & Teresa  
Thompson's son-in-law)

**Our Homebound and  
in Care Facilities:**

Alice McBee, Marvin Morris,  
Carol Hollshwandner,

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

February 23-29, 2019

### **SUNDAY:**

Sunday Daycare	9:15 a.m.
Sunday School (adults)	9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.
Deacon Meeting	12:00 p.m.
Sun City bell Ringers	3:00 p.m.

### **MONDAY**

Bible Study- Zechariah 5-8	9:30 a.m.
Boy & Cub Scout Meeting	6:00 p.m.

### **TUESDAY**

YISD Retired Teachers	9:30 a.m.
Pastor Bob's Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
ACOA	7:00 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY**

Gamblers Anonymous	7:00 p.m.
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### **THURSDAY**

Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.
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### **SATURDAY**

Music Lessons	10:00 a.m.- 1:00p.m.
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## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:10-12 1 Peter 4:12-19 (NRSV)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?”

Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God’s will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

**L: The Word of the Lord.** C: Thanks be to God.

## **Unexpected Blessings for the Persecuted**

Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 4:12-19

### **I. Introduction: Blessed are the Persecuted? Rejoice?**

5:10a, 11-12a; 4:13a, 14a

### **II. Part One: Righteous Christians Complete Christ's Suffering.**

4:12-13, 15 and 2 Tim 3:12; Luke 6:26; John 15:18-21; Col 1:24

### **III. Part Two: Persecuted Christians Stand as Spirit-filled Prophets**

5:12; 4:14, 16

### **IV. Part Three: Persecution Here Seals Us for Glory to Come**

5:10; 4:13b, 17-18 and Acts 14:22; Heb 11:13-16; Philippians 3:10-11

V. Part Four: In the Face of Persecution, We Commit Ourselves All the More  
4:19 and Heb 10:36

VI. Conclusion: What a Blessing! Let us Rejoice!  
5:10a, 11-12a; 4:13a, 14a