



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

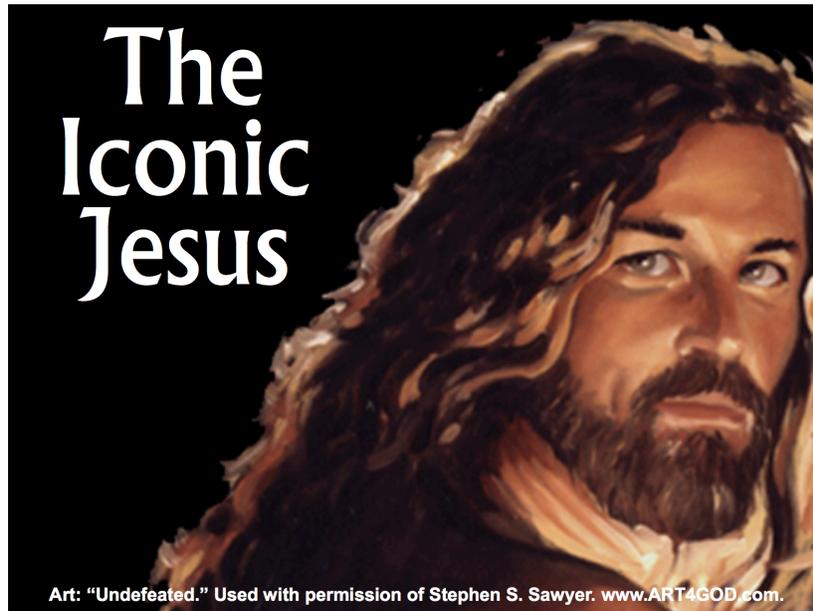
Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypresbyterian.org](http://www.bethanypresbyterian.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

January 1, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

*Second Sunday after Christmas*



*“Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,  
because my eyes have seen your salvation. You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.  
It’s a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel.”- Luke 2:29-32(CEB)*

### GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

#### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*The Iconic Jesus. Jesus as icon. Could be, but the question is, which Jesus are we talking about? We ask this because we Americans have a history of continually remaking Jesus to resemble our current hero-types. (- from Homiletics Online.)*

#### PRELUDE: *Still, Still, Still*

G. DAVIDSON

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

*(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

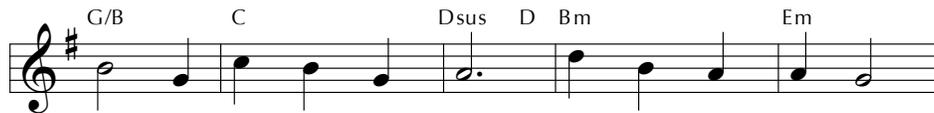
#### \* GATHERING SONG: *Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple*

EVENING HYMN

# Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple 148



1 Mar-y and Jo - seph came to the tem - ple brought the boy  
 2 An - na had prayed there, wid - owed, long wait - ing, wor - ship - ing  
 3 Sim - e - on sings now: God prof - fers bless - ing, bril - liant - ly



Je - sus, of - fered him there. Peo - ple were wait - ing  
 God by day and by night. Now she is prais - ing,  
 gild - ing dawn of his day. Light in the dark - ness,



want - ing to greet him; long had they sought him, so - lace for care.  
 filled with e - la - tion: here is God's prom - ise, Christ is her light.  
 nev - er ex - tin - guished, Light of all na - tions, light up our way.

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Christmas tree lights have dimmed.

***The once-wrapped gifts have been shared.***

But the awesome love of God still shines brightly in our hearts.

***Our spirits resound with the good news of salvation.***

God is with us!

***Thanks be to God!***

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### \* HYMN OF PRAISE: #31: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lord of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others.

***We confess, O God, that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas "high." So much time was spent in gathering, wrapping, and delivering gifts; in preparing for family gatherings and times with friends; in decorating our homes.***

But somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don't want that "high" to be over. We want to feel the "peace on earth" feeling, but we let it go. We push it aside when we begin our journey of complaining and blaming others for everything that is going wrong. We ignore the blessing of the gift when we refuse to help those in need.

***Shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us.***

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Behold! God has given God's Son that we might have life – new, vital, sparkling. Feel the wondrous power and love of God in your heart this day and know that God is with us always.

**Rejoice! We are loved by God, now and forever. Amen.**

### \* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355: *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

### \* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

**We are a community of believers called by God to worship, serve, teach, and support.**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

ARR. W. BARNETT

\* **A DOXOLOGY:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo - - - - - ri-a, in excelsis Deo;  
Glo - - - - - ri-a, in excelsis Deo.*

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

**HYMN OF THE DAY #66:** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

## MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

ROBERT CULL / DAVID ALLEN

*Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.*

## THE SPOKEN WORD

Lord, silence any voice but your own.

**That we may hear you speaking to us on this day.**

A Reading from Luke 2:21-38  
This is Holy Scripture for God's people.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *The Jesus Gift*

GILBERT MARTIN

*Shall I gather emeralds? Shall I bring him gold?  
Shall I gather diamonds? White hard? Bright cold?  
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?  
- Give him laughter  
Simple warm laughter  
Offer him warm laughter and love -  
Shall we gather emeralds? Shall we bring him gold?  
Shall we gather diamonds? White hard? Bright cold?  
Shall we spangle jewels like stars above?  
- Give him laughter  
Simple warm laughter  
Offer him warm laughter and love -  
- Simplest of gifts; gentlest of hearts  
Kindness he'll use as he leads  
So, give him these gifts; hand him your hearts --  
Honour his birth and you'll need no:  
Emeralds nor rubies. Silver nor gold  
Neither bright diamonds, white hard, bright cold  
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above  
- Give him laughter  
Sweet, peace-filled laughter  
Offer him warm laughter and love-*

**SERMON: THE ICONIC JESUS**

REV. JOHNSON

## LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

\* **CLOSING HYMN #46:** *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

PERSONENT HODIE

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Walk in the Light*

TRADITIONAL

\* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

**WORSHIP Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

**WELCOME** to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a member or a visitor we are so glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that this time of worship will be both renewing and rewarding for you. If you have any

questions about Bethany, please speak to the pastor or call the church at 336.227.4041. You can find us online through our website at [www.bethanypresbyterian.org](http://www.bethanypresbyterian.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

**Operating our audio and video systems** this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

**Audio Recordings** of each Sunday's sermons are available through a link on our website, or at [www.buzzsprout.com/9198](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- Homiletics Online website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))
- Narrative Lectionary website ([www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org))

The Session has called for a **Congregational Meeting** to immediately follow worship on **next Sunday, January 8, 2017**, for the purpose of approving the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and Session regarding changes in the Terms of Call of the Pastor.

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **"check in" on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

**To the parents of young children:** Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette  
Faye Campbell  
Frances Nolan  
Joey Leake  
Diane Bullis  
Tiffany Tauchren

Diane Miller  
Jack Cook  
Polly & Dick Wilson  
Layla Benoklen  
Shannon Russell  
Mary Moore

John & Ann Sutton  
Peter Slater  
Dr. Bob James  
Teresa Wilborn  
Ida Whitney  
Rachel Poteat

Jean Berry  
Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson  
Nancy Sutton

Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Harold Baldwin  
Duffy Strigo

Jeremy Harden  
Anne McDaniels  
Mike Sutton  
Ron Chilton

**TEACH Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

All are invited to take advantage of the several educational opportunities for all ages on Sunday mornings. Sunday school classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

**Fellowship Class** (Fellowship Classroom – by ramp door)

This class is using our denomination's *Present Word* curriculum and lives up to the class name in all aspects of their life here at Bethany.

**Young at Heart Class** (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

**Seeker's Class** (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using a study guide that correlates with the preaching text and themes that are used in our worship services.

**Children** (Upstairs – the really, really green room!)

This class for younger children is using our denomination's *We Believe* curriculum in introducing our children to the faith.

**Youth** (Upstairs, across from the choir room)

Using a variety of creative curricula, this class explores topics that relate to faith and adolescence.

**SUPPORT Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for January are **Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell.**

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Wednesday, the 4<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup>:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 4*

Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 12:00 – Congregational Meeting

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

### Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey  
Karen Maxwell  
Sherrie Moore

### Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson  
Nancy Purcell  
Brandon Troxler

### Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell  
Ron Osborne  
Jean Payne

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)



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