



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

January 1, 2023 – 11:00 am

*First Sunday of Christmas*



So there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen generations from the exile to Babylon to the Christ.  
Matthew 1:17 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Happy New Year and Merry Christmas! Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, *Winter: Liturgical Resources for November, December and January* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Productions, 2016).*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

ROBERT J. HUGHES

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*OPENING SENTENCES

"BRING US BRIGHT GOD," RUTH BURGESS

Bring us bright God  
from yesterday  
into today and tomorrow.

Cheer us with courage.  
Disturb us with justice.  
Safeguard us with wisdom.  
Bless us with wonder.  
Cherish us with love.

Let us worship our God.

**\*CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

Father in heaven,  
after the rush and pause of Advent,  
after the whirl and joy of Christmas,  
in the quiet dark tiredness of midwinter  
help me to release my resolutions into your hands.  
Leaning not on my own understanding,  
relying not on my own strength and will,  
but on your grace, your peace, your love.

Help me embrace your easy yoke  
and allow myself to be re-made by you,  
by the power of the Spirit,  
in the likeness of your Son,  
for your glory, Father God.

***Amen.***

"NEW YEAR – NEW ME," EVELYN SWEETS

**\*OPENING CAROL #27: *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child***

JOSEPH SIMPSON COOK

Gentle Mary laid her Child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the undefiled,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a Babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth;  
Wise men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth,  
Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled,  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise His Name in all the earth,  
Hail the King of glory!

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh – good news of great joy for all – so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 132:11-12**

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 769

**MATTHEW 1:16-17**

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1169

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"AGAIN WE COME," TINA KEMP IN "SPILL THE BEANS"

Friends, let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves. Please pray with me.

Another year draws to a close, Creator God.  
The minutes tick away in lives lived and in hopes spoken.  
How good it is to know that your words are eternal.

Another year beckons us on, God,  
calls us toward it in a jumble of anticipation and fear.  
How good it is to know that your presence is a reality.

Again we come, God,  
to this place of sanctuary to make sense of our past and our future.  
How good it is to know that your promises are everlasting.

For you have come along us as only you could,  
announcing your colorful intentions  
from a dull and hostile stable;  
promising the world to the poor and ignorant;  
asking for trouble with your talk of peace.  
Inviting the world to start over.

***It is our time to start over, God,  
Not just with new calendars and well-intentioned resolutions.  
It is time to start over with you.  
The Bethlehem babe is only a week old,  
yet already the bright wrappings and trappings of Christmas  
have started to fade.  
Angels' voices are a distant echo,  
shepherds are back in their fields,  
wise men have set off on new adventures  
and we are relieved it's all over for another year.***

***Forgive our haste to leave that dirty stable  
for somewhere more comfortable;  
forgive our reluctance to kneel down in the dirt  
and look the Christ child in the face a little longer.***

*Forgive our need to move on with the busyness of life  
instead of lingering a while with him.  
Forgive our inability to forgive others  
as he reaches out his arms in acceptance.*

*Forgive our past, God,  
renew our present  
and affirm our future,  
touched by your grace.*

## A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

"AGAIN WE COME," TINA KEMP IN "SPILL THE BEANS"

It is our time to start over, God,  
and we commit ourselves to that now.  
Make your home in the soiled stables of our hearts;  
speak your truth in the ordinariness of our lives  
and fulfil your promise in your coming among us  
again and again and again  
so that all may start again with you.  
In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### THE WORD IN MUSIC

Carol Sing

### PASTORAL PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

"AS THE OLD YEAR PASSES," DAVID MACGREGOR

### \*CLOSING HYMN #18: *The Desert Shall Rejoice*

GRACIA GRINDAL

The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
It shall blossom abundantly  
And rejoice with praise and singing.

The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
For the ears of the deaf shall hear  
And the blind, their eyes be opened.

The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
For the tongue of the mute shall sing  
And the lame will dance with gladness.

The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
For the ground will become a pool  
And the dry land springs of water.

The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
As the ransomed return to God  
And come singing back to Zion,

The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
Unto Zion we come with joy,  
For our God has come to save us.

**\*SENDING**

Blessed are you  
now that the New Year has begun.

Blessed with the light  
that overwhelms the night.

Blessed with the life breath of God's Spirit.

Blessed in order to bless  
all those you meet on the path of your life.

***Amen.***

"BLESSED ARE YOU," ALBERT KLOK

**POSTLUDE:** *Praise and Thanks for the New Year*

FRANKLIN RITTER

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# *Our Faith Community @ Work*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **January 1st – New Years Day/First Sunday of Christmas**

The first Sunday of Christmas happens to be New Years Day this year. We'll have another more informal service with a carol sing.

### **January 8th – Baptism of the Lord/Epiphany Sunday**

We will celebrate the new year with a service that will include the Sacrament of Communion and once again we'll chalk the doors, just like we did last year. We will also hold a brief Congregational Meeting to elect a Nominating Committee for this year's class of Elders.

### **January 29th - Brunch Church**

It's our first Fifth Sunday of the year. We will celebrate with a Brunch Church service at 11. Invite your friends!

### **Invitation to Snow Ski**

You are invited to Snow Ski with the Scouts of Troop 9. Lessons provided, Learn to Ski, and have a Great Time. Contact Jeff Benes for more details and to sign up.

Jeff Benes  
Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9  
(336) 675-9086 cell  
[benes.nc@att.net](mailto:benes.nc@att.net)

### **Scouts Looking for Storage Space**

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:  
2 camping trailers , 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).  
Space needed for security and protection from the weather.  
Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9  
(336) 675-9086 cell  
[benes.nc@att.net](mailto:benes.nc@att.net)

**This Week's Calendar:**

Today:

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - First Sunday of Christmas

11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - Second Sunday of Christmas

11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)  
Congregational Meeting after Service

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



## Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

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## Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

## Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

## Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

## Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – [chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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