Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
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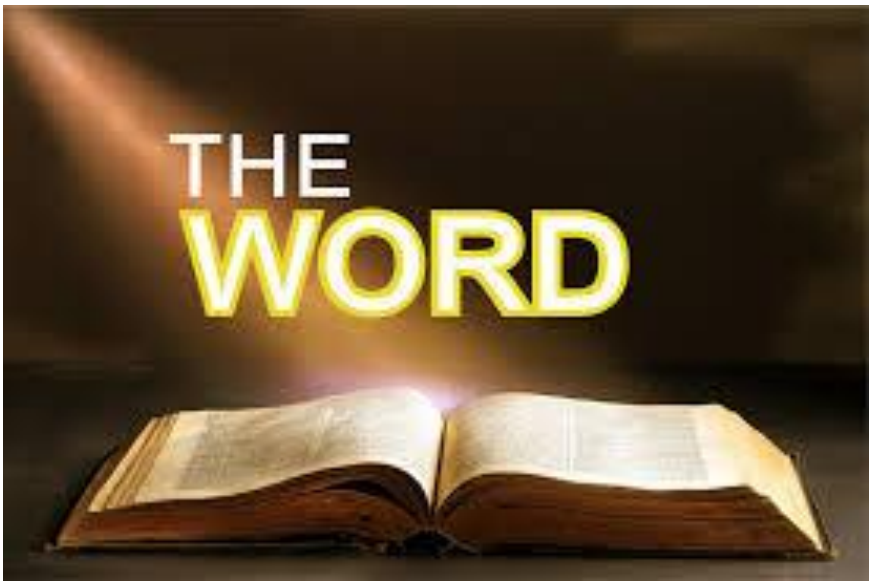
January 4, 2026 – 11:00 am
2nd Sunday of Christmas
Communion



GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE:

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #22:** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* — JAMES MONTGOMERY

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light: **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (JEREMIAH 31)

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
Give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people."
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion;
They shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.
With expectation and joy as we begin a new year, let us worship the living God!

GATHERING PRAYER (ISAIAH 60, PSALM 72, EPHESIANS 3, MATTHEW 2, NEW YEAR)

Christ of power and justice, help us embrace the power that comes from love, and guide us to seek the justice that love reveals.
Open our hearts and minds, that we may hear your wisdom in this time of worship.
Open our lives in the year ahead to the power and strength of your loving Spirit.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (FROM THE BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH)

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #68:** *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* CHARLES COFFIN

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand
To read in heaven the Lord's command.

O Jesus, while the star of grace
Impels us on to seek Your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of Your light to use.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES (ADAPTED FROM JEREMIAH 31:7-9, 13)

We cry out: "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel," for we are a people in need of saving.
You promise to gather your people, but we confess that we want to put limitations on who is saved.
We want you to save those we define as strong and beautiful and wise; You call the blind and the lame, the children and those in labor.
Forgive us, O Holy God, for our prejudice and narrow vision. Forgive us for our lack of faith.
Forgive us for doubting your promise and declining your invitation. By your Spirit, renew us. Turn our mourning into joy and our sorrow into gladness that we might return to you and your way.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE (FROM EPHESIANS 1)

…In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love, and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 147:12-20 PEW BIBLE, 779

JOHN 1:1-9, 10-18 PEW BIBLE, 1289

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC:

THE WORD PROCLAIMED
Sermon: ***"The Word"*** RICK PURCELL, CRE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY:

***DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* THOMAS KEN

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.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***CLOSING HYMN #37:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* POLISH CAROL

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging Angels singing,
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing Greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***SENDING** (ADAPTED FROM EPHESIANS 1:13)

As we go forth from this place, may we hear and believe the truth, the gospel of our salvation,
that we are loved and chosen in Christ and sealed with the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Share this good news with everyone you meet, for they are loved and chosen in Christ, too. Alleluia. Amen.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

"Peace" *Composed by Christopher A. Bagley*

POSTLUDE:

_____

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room

Exercise classes will start back after the first of the year on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, January 6th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, January 6th at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, January 6th 2026 Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library with be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30.
Please stop by and "check-out" this wonderful service the library has to share.

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **Winter months**? They are asking for **Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice and Spaghetti. Breakfast items (Cereals, Granola Bars, Oatmeal, Breakfast Bars), Children and Adult diapers and Feminine products.**
S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.
Consider donating your paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, January 4th - 2nd Sunday of Christmas – Communion, Pennies for Hunger, Congregational Meeting

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Tuesday, January 6th

10:30 – The Women of Bethany Church Gathering - Evie C. Marshall classroom

Wednesday, January 7th

10:00 – Exercise class

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 11th - Baptism of the Lord

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

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worship serve teach support

Session
Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE
Clerk: Randy Cousins
Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2025:
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Tina Patterson
Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:
Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

Class of 2027:
Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Brandon Troxler

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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – *finance@bethanypreschurch.org*

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