



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 5, 2020 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Christmas



“This is what God planned for the climax of all times: to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth. We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design.”
Ephesians 1:10-11 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Reading texts that are full of professional jargon can be a daunting task even for the experts, let alone a layperson unfamiliar with the lingo. This is the feeling we get when we approach one of the apostle’s long sentences. We need to take a breath, read slowly and then, when we grasp what he’s saying, it’s truly amazing. (From Homiletics Online for January 5, 2020)

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *The First Noel*

D. PAXTON

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 HYMN #338: *Kum Ba Yah*

AFRICAN MELODY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

From distant lands and faraway shores, God calls us together.

Like a shepherd tending his flock, God gathers us in.

Along straight paths and cleared byways, God guides our journey.

Like a mother taking her firstborn’s hand, God leads us home.

Praise the Lord, O people! Shout for joy!

Let us sing aloud with gladness. Let us worship the Lord!

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1423

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Before creation dawned God chose us in Christ to stand holy and blameless before heaven's throne. Our lives do not always honor God's glory. Still, the Lord lavishes grace upon us and transforms our hearts. In humility and faith let us return to the One who calls us "beloved."

Holy God, you call us to testify to the light of Christ, which enlightens everyone, but we hide in the shadows and shrink from bearing witness to the light. Yet, even now, you dwell among us, full of grace and truth. Empower us to embody your love and embrace your hope. Long after the wreaths and ribbons are packed away, remind us that your light still pierces the darkness. Sustain our joy, surround us with peace, and inspire us to bear witness to your abundant grace and enduring truth.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Listen, O people! Hear the good news: God has rescued us from our captivity to sin and redeemed us from every power that threatens to undo us. Our God has turned our mourning into laughter and our sadness into joy. People of God, come and sing aloud; exult over the goodness of the Lord!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen!

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

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus Christ 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**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 say what we believe. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 God the Holy Spirit?

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

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Brightest and Best*

R. HEBER

* **A DOXOLOGY #591:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTHT

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF THE DAY #298: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE READING OF THE NECROLOGY AND PRAYER

Faye Campbell - January 28, 2019
Ruth Younts - February 14, 2019
Levi Byrd - April 11, 2019
Jerry Perdue - May 24, 2019
Don Boggs - August 24, 2019
Foy Bayliff - December 27, 2019

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Behold the Star*

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

*Behold the star!
Behold the star up yonder!
Behold the star!
It is the star of Bethlehem.
There was no room found in the inn
For Him who was born free from sin.
The wise men came from the East
To worship Him, the Prince of Peace.
A song broke forth upon the night.
Peace on earth, good-will to men.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Take a Breath, Paul!***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN:** *Jesus, Light of Joy* (see next page)

LAUDA ANIMA

*** SENDING**

Go forth now, with God's Word echoing in your hearts.
We will go to share God's hope with all who are empty.
Go forth now, with the grace of Jesus filling your souls.
We will go to share the justice of Jesus with all who are forgotten.
Go forth now, with the Spirit's peace resting on you.
We will go to share this peace, placing it like a shawl around the broken, the grieving, the lonely.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Sing Praises to the Changing Year*

H. TURNER

Please stand in body or spirit.

673 Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). 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.bethanypreschurch.org; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following @bpresbyterian.

“I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called ‘not-my-people’, I will say ‘you are my people’ and they will answer, ‘you are our God.’” (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ’s Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

For our children: Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Activities for children can be found at several locations throughout the sanctuary. See an usher if you can’t find one.

Audio and Visual Assistance: A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Please take a moment – members and guests – to sign the **Fellowship Pads** that are located on each row. If you are a guest, please share any contact information you wish to, so that we may be in touch.

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, on our Facebook page, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Call to Worship* resources from the PCUSA.

Mark your calendars for next Sunday, January 12th, as this will be the date for our **Installation of Officers**, as we install **Bill Abplanalp, Helen Brown, and Tina Patterson** to active service on the Session.

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.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden

Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Glenn Thompson
Carol Brooks
Robert Sykes

Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Family of Foy Bayliff
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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.

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: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for January are **Nancy Purcell** and **Helen Brown**.

Please offer a **word of thanks to these Session members** who are rotating off from active duty: **A. J. Campbell, Ron Osborne, and Jean Payne**. Ron is also completing his term as Church Treasurer, and **Rick Purcell** is completing his term as Clerk of Session. Our new treasurer beginning in January is Glenn Patterson, and our new Clerk of Session is Karen Maxwell.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 8th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 12th:

- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 - Worship / including the Installation of Officers

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

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love learn serve



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Staff

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

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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