Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 11, 2026 – 11:00 am
Baptism of the Lord
Installation of Elders

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: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* ARR. RICHARD BRADLEY

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #29:** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Refrain
Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**
Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (FROM PSALM 148)

The voice of the Lord is powerful and full of majesty.
May the Lord bless us with God's Peace!
The voice of the Lord proclaimed Jesus as God's beloved.
In our own baptisms, we are claimed as God's beloved.

GATHERING PRAYER (ISAIAH 42, MATTHEW 3)

You Who Call Us, we come before you in answer your call in our life.
You created the heavens and the earth and placed us here for life and hope.
We know your dream for a world that is righteous and just, a world you promise will come to pass.
Breathe your Spirit upon us again and again, and bring to life our passion for your bold vision.
Make us lights to those who sit in darkness! In the name of Jesus, who descended into the waters of baptism to show us the way to righteousness, and of the Soaring Spirit, who alights upon those who arise from these life-giving waters. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***HYMN OF THE DAY #56:** *The First Nowell* ENGLISH CAROL

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence,
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood our life hath bought. **Refrain**

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

Merciful God, we confess that we are estranged from you and from one another. We treat others as strangers rather than as people created in your image and fellow children of God. We exploit the earth as though it were our possession rather than a gift entrusted to our care and a reflection of your image and glory. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit that we might live as people who have been baptized as your own children. Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sentences of Scripture

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.
God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.
Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement of Ordination

Presentation of Elders-Elect

*Profession of Faith

As God calls some to particular forms of ministry, God calls us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of Baptism. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
I do.
Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?
I do.
Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?
I will, with God's help.
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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Gracious and eternal God . . . By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.
Amen.
Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, the members of the church, accept Karen, Kim, and Brandon as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?
We do.
Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?
We do.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

WELCOME AND CHARGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the words we are about to hear will become the Word of God for us this day. Help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 29 PEW BIBLE, 684

MATTHEW 3: 13-17 PEW BIBLE, 1172

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *We Three Kings* Trio - Randy Cousins, Glenn Patterson, Josh Williford

THE WORD PROCLAIMED
Sermon: ***"The Baptism of Christ"*** RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* WILBUR LEE

***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 #47:** *Still, Still, Still* AUSTRIAN CAROL

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill!
The Virgin's tender arms enfolding,
Warm and safe the Child are holding.
Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill!

Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep
While angel hosts from heaven come winging,
Sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.

***SENDING**

Hear the voice of God that claimed you in baptism: you are precious and beloved in God's sight.
God has claimed our lives in baptism that we might die to sin and be raised to new life.
God's Spirit empowers us now to follow Jesus into our world, so as you go, lift up the broken hearted
and stand with the oppressed. Love God with your whole lives and love neighbors as yourselves. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Angels We Have Heard on High* ARR. WARREN M. ANGELL

** 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.

Thursday, January 22nd Men of the Church

The Men of the Church will have their Annual Meeting and Oyster Stew on Thursday, January 22nd at 5:30pm in the Recreational Building. Bring a friend and pass the word along to others.
Need a ride? Let us know!

Tuesday, February 3rd 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, February 3rd at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, February 3rd 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 11th - Baptism of the Lord – Installation of Officers

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

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

Tuesday, January 13th

7:00pm – Session Meeting

Wednesday, January 14th

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 18th - Second Sunday after Epiphany – Meeting of the Corporation

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

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Class of 2026:
Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

Class of 2027:
Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2028:
Helen Brown
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Nancy Purcell

Staff
Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – *pastor4bethany@gmail.com*
Director of Music: – *bethanypresmusic@gmail.com*
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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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