



Bethany Presbyterian Church

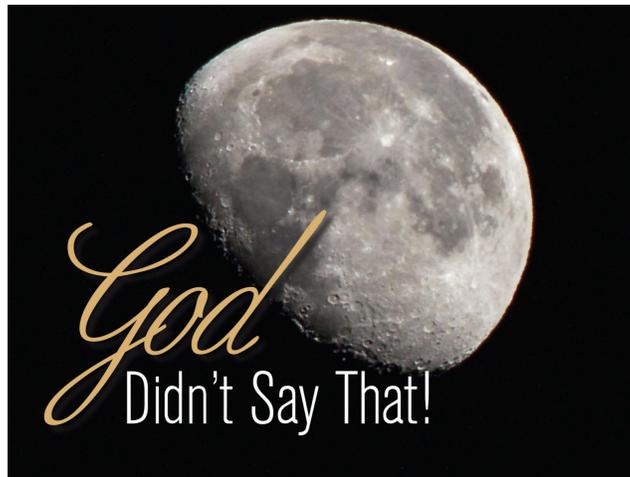
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 13, 2019 – 11:00 am

Baptism of the Lord



"I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, your savior. I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you. I give people in your place, and nations in exchange for your life."

Isaiah 43:3-4 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Abraham Lincoln did not say, "The problem with quotes on the Internet is that no one can confirm their authenticity." Nor does the Bible say that "cleanliness is next to godliness," "God works in mysterious ways" or "God helps those who help themselves." Christians often say that God will never give us more than we can bear. But does the Bible actually promise this? Since so many unreliable quotations appear on the internet, we need to quote God accurately.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE

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 #492: *Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God is a God of power and strength!

God has created each of us with tender care.

Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

God walks with each of us every step of the way.

Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.

Our God calls us each by name.

God calls each of us to unite in worship together!

* **OPENING HYMN #356:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLE TON

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

As God has spoken through the prophets,

God speaks now to us.

Hear the word of the Lord.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

ISAIAH 43:1-7

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 884

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

When we baptize ourselves in the frigid waters of fear, you come to gather us up, drying us off with grace, wrapping us in the warm, fluffy towel of the Spirit.

When our faith becomes as threadbare as the carpet beneath our feet, you come, your work boots on, your tool belt around your waist, building a new foundation for us, whistling, 'my hope is built on nothing less . . .'

When we worry that someone else has taken our place in your heart, you show us where our name is etched, so you can always feel us with every beat.

God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our prayers of joy to you.

Broken? God promises to make us whole. Lost? God promises to come and find us, gather us up, and bring us home. Confused about tomorrow? God promises our future is grounded in love. Let us confess that, though we have heard the promises over and over, we have trouble believing them, as we pray together saying,

We know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our lives, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places - success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism, but live as if they have not changed us.

We need to hear your sure word, 'do not fear,.' Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your compassionate arms. In our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God's words of comfort and restoration are more powerful than any foolishness, any mistakes, any sins we commit. This is good news: we are God's people!

Thanks be to God! By water and word, by the Spirit of God's redeeming grace, we are marked and sealed as God's beloved children. 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 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

* **THE DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #476:** *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*

LYONS

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Honor! Honor!*

HALL JOHNSON

SYLVESTER ALLEN, SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *GOD DIDN'T SAY THAT*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #495:** *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

ENGELBERG

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

* *Please 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 (PCUSA). Whether you are a member or a guest 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](https://twitter.com/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 this morning’s worship:

- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

The **Men of the Church Oyster Stew** will be held this **Thursday, the 17th at 6:00 pm** in the Recreation Building.

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: Jean Payne and Randy Cousins)

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

Bill Faucette
Faye Campbell
Frances Nolan
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Deanna Yates

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins

Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Ruby Martin
Katherine Turner
Foy Bayliff

Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Levi Byrd
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Bill Abplanalp
Daniel Mitchell-Ayers

Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Ruth Younts
Alex Thomas
Susie Hunley
Robert Sykes

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.

Our weekly Bible study, ***Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World***, has completed the first half of the study on Genesis and Exodus, and is taking a brief break over the holidays before resuming on this **Tuesday, January 15th** with the second part of the study on Luke and Acts. Anyone wishing to join this study are certainly welcome. See John if you're interested!

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Ben Russell)

Elders of the Month for January are **Chip Allen** and **Ron Osborne**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 14th:

- 7:00 - Circle #3

Tuesday, the 15th:

- 7:00 - Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday, the 16th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, the 17th:

- 6:00 - Men of the Church Oyster Stew

Sunday, the 20th:

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

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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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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