



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 21, 2018 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday after Epiphany



“The Lord’s word came to Jonah a second time: ‘Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and declare against it the proclamation that I am commanding you.’

And Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the Lord’s word.”

Jonah 3:1-3a (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Escape Rooms are the latest group gaming and team-building craze. Game designers develop crazy scenarios that force a team of people to work together in gathering clues so that they can find the exit before time runs out. In this week’s text, Jonah tries to escape a nightmare scenario of his own but discovers there’s no escape from the call of God.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *New Life in Christ*

W. STOCKTON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Love of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* **GATHERING SONG:** *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

GERON DAVIS

*We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God called to Jonah to get up, go to Nineveh and proclaim God's word.

But Jonah refused, until God called a second time.

God is persistent. God believes in those whom God has called.

Jesus called the disciples by the lakeshore

They left their families and jobs to follow Jesus.

Lord, give us the courage to follow you all of our lives.

* OPENING HYMN #377: *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Holy One, God of all Creation, you call us to be your people, to carry your vision in this time and place, to go where you send us to help welcome your amazing good news.

As we gather in the presence of the risen Christ to spread the news that your realm is near, fill us with your Holy Spirit, O God of all Creation. Fill us with your glorious Spirit, that we may share your good news with a world in need.

Holy Fountain of Forgiveness, the tale of Jonah reminds us of your never-ending love for all creation. May we be like the people of Nineveh, who were able to acknowledge their sin and open their eyes to your healing presence.

Though you stand ready to forgive our sin, we find it easier to bite our tongues, clench our fists, and cling to our hurts and resentments rather than let you open our hearts.

We trust you, Holy One; we pour out our hearts to you. Receive the pain that lurks in our humanity, as we offer up what we have hidden from ourselves and from the world – those words and deeds that keep us separated from your love.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

When we repent, our God relents, lifting us beyond the pain, restoring us to safety, protecting us in the refuge of eternal love. In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

TRADITIONAL

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

Fell like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

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 confess our faith. 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: *Be Still My Soul*

L. BERGQUIST

*** A DOXOLOGY:**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*** HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Great God of Every Blessing*

AURELIA

*Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.*

*In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

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

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

*** PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *God's Presence*

GREGORY ALLEN

*It's a presence that will fill your with love and joy and peace.
My God's presence will heal your broken heart and place your mind at ease.
So open up and let the spirit in.
Relax your mind and concentrate on him.
He is here. He is present.
Won't you let the spirit in?
Oh usher in, usher in, usher in God's presence.*

*Let us exult His name.
Come on and lift the Savior up.
Magnify His name.
He'll ever love and care for us.
Usher in, usher in, usher in God's presence;
His Holy presence.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Jonah's Escape Room Strategy***

Text: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

REV. JOHNSON
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1122

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #281:** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CSM RHONDDA

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *The Heavens Declare the Glory*

W. BARNETT

* *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. 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](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

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:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)

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.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Please drop by the nursery to say hello to our new nursery worker **Caroline Wright**. Caroline is scheduled to be with us through the end of May.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elder: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

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

Bill Faucette
Faye Campbell
Frances Nolan
Layla Benoklen
Ida Whitney
Rachel Poteat

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Polly & Dick Wilson
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
Ben Johnson
Celeste Bayliff Agner

Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Sandy Cook and niece Rachel
Levi Byrd
Ruth Younts

Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Carolyn Thompson
Shelvia Russell
Ruby Martin

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

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the *Wired Word* curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for January are **Nancy Purcell** and **A. J. Campbell**.

Attendance January 7th: 53

Offering: \$4,040.00

Attendance January 14th: 54

Offering:

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 24th:

- 7:00 - Choir Practice

Sunday, the 28th :

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

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

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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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