



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

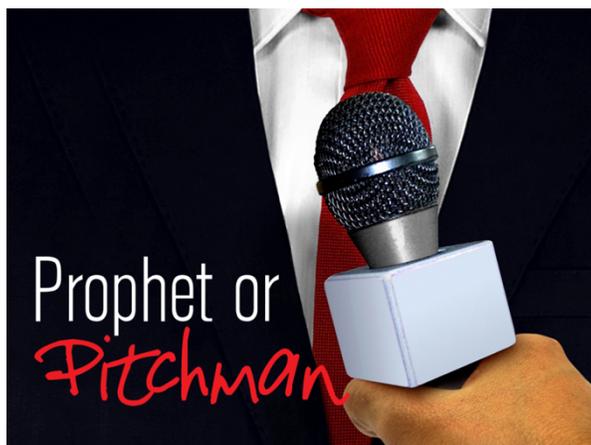
Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

January 28, 2018 – 11:00 am

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*



*"I'll raise up a prophet for them from among their fellow Israelites—one just like you.  
I'll put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him."  
Deuteronomy 18:18 (CEB)*

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Most companies today have a celebrity pitchperson who acts as their public "face" in their advertising. When that public face says or does something scandalous, however, the company often suffers the most. Companies have to choose wisely when looking for someone to speak for them. Israel was faced with a similar dilemma -- how can you tell the difference between a real prophet and just another religious pitchman? It's a question for everyone who wants to hear an authentic word from the Lord.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Footsteps of Jesus*

L. SMITH

### 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:** *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak*

DENNIS JERNIGAN

*You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.  
When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!*

*(Repeat)*

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Thinking we know all the answers, yet wondering if we haven't missed something:  
**we enter *this sanctuary of Truth.***

In the company of sinners, in cahoots with saints:

**we gather as *God's people.***

Standing by folks of deep, abiding faith; seated with those who stumble through the Kingdom:  
**we lift our praise to God.**

## \* OPENING HYMN #138: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

NICAEA

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

We hunger for power, and you feed us the bread of humility; we long for freedom, and you invite us to drink the cup of self-denial. Faithful and Just God:

***our songs of gratitude will echo down the hallways of creation.***

You speak and all the props are knocked out from under our pride. Then, you astound us by reaching out your hand to lift us to our feet so we may follow you. Holy Gift of God:

***our songs of praise will echo down the hallway of our hearts.***

Without your wisdom, we would be speechless; without your peace, we would be heartless; without your presence, we would be graceless. Bearer of Truth:

***our songs of joy will echo down the hallways of eternity.***

It's very simple: all God asks is that we recognize our sin and acknowledge it. And why? When we offer our prayers of confession, God takes them from us and fills our hearts with such an abundance of mercy, we cannot hold it all. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

***God our God: we fill our souls with the empty sounds of our culture, and wonder why we are so empty when we need words of hope, of grace, of comfort. We are careful to follow the prescriptions our doctors give us, yet pay little heed to your hopes for us. We puff out our chests over what good people we are, yet do not notice how our pride trips those who seek to follow Jesus.***

Forgive us, Holy One, and be gracious to us: astound us with your words, so we may learn your ways; nourish us with your mercy, so we may be filled with life; enter our empty souls, till they overflow with praise for your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

## AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Of all the astounding works of God, this may be the most wonderful: God is gracious and merciful – to us!

***What has this to do with us? Everything! What is this? Good news, of the very best kind! We are forgiven. We give thanks to our God with all our hearts. 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:** *O Divine Redeemer*

C. GOUNOD

### **\* 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 #339: *Be Thou My Vision***

SLANE

## **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: *Ain't Got Time to Die***

H. JOHNSON

*Lord I keep so busy praisin' my Jesus  
Keep so busy praisin' my Jesus  
Keep so busy praisin' my Jesus  
Ain't got time to die*

*'Cause when I'm healin' the sick (I'm praisin' my Jesus)  
When I'm healin' the sick (I'm praisin' my Jesus)  
When I'm healin' the sick (I'm praisin' my Jesus)  
Ain't got time to die*

*'Cause it takes all of my time to praise my Jesus  
All of my time (to praise My Lord)  
If I don't praise Him the rocks are gonna cry out  
Glory and honor, glory and honor  
Ain't got time to die*

*Lord I keep so busy workin' for the kingdom...  
Ain't got time to die  
'Cause when I'm feedin' the poor (I'm workin' for the kingdom)...  
Ain't got time to die (Chorus)*

*Lord I keep so busy servin' my master...  
Ain't got time to die  
'Cause when I'm givin' my all (I'm servin' my master)...  
Ain't got time to die*

*Now won't you get out of my way (Let me praise my Jesus)  
Out of my way (Let me praise my Lord)  
If I don't praise Him the rocks are gonna cry out  
Glory and honor, glory and honor  
Ain't got time to die*

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: ***Prophet or Pitchman***

Text: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

REV. JOHNSON  
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 242

## **LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME**

\* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Come! Live in the Light!* (see next page)

WE ARE CALLED

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Work for the Night Is Coming*

S. SCOTT

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\* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

# 749 Come! Live in the Light!

## We Are Called

G C D G

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

C D Em

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

Em7 C G Am7

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the  
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and  
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

G C Dsus D

free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 vio - lence will be no more.  
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

*Refrain* G C D C D G C

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to

D Em Em7 C D

love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -

C D G C D C G

oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.



# *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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))
- *Homiletics Online* website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))

John will be away this week, attending the annual conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) in Louisville, KY. He will return home on Saturday and will be back in the pulpit next Sunday.

Next Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> is Super Bowl Sunday. Once again, we will participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring Offering**. As this is also the first Sunday of the month, we will combine our **Pennies for Hunger Offering** and the Souper Bowl Offering.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in loving memory of **Jim Cousins** by **Barbara Cousins**.

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	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Levi Byrd	Shelvia Russell
Celeste Bayliff Agner	Ruth Younts	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 14<sup>th</sup>: 54

Offering: \$2,791.00

Attendance January 21<sup>st</sup>: 53

Offering:

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>: John away

Wednesday, the 31<sup>st</sup>:

- 7:00 - Choir Practice

Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Souper Bowl of Caring/Pennies for Hunger Offering

### 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

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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