



Bethany Presbyterian Church

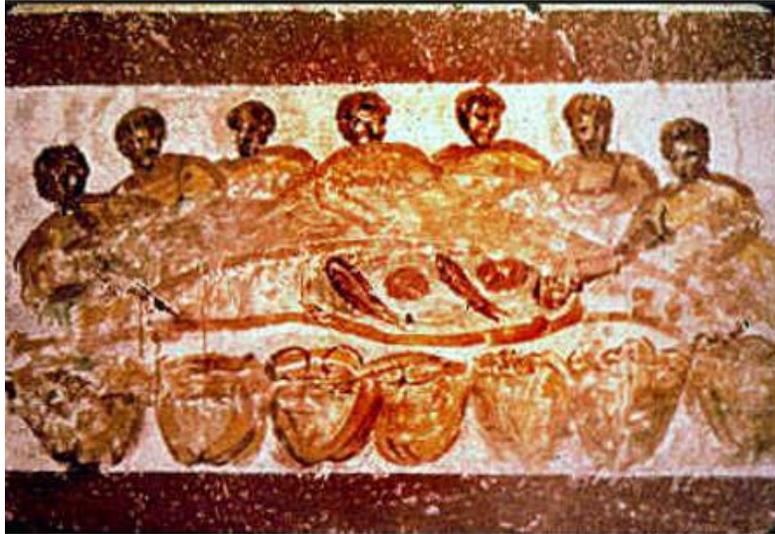
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 29, 2023 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



"Agape Feast" (Catacombe di Priscilla)

"Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21 (CEB)

BRUNCH CHURCH

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to Brunch Church! Brunch church is a new take on a very old way of doing worship, based on the Agape Meals of the earliest church. The inspiration for this service is taken from the service developed by Grace Commons, a former Missional Faith Community of Chicago Presbytery, written by Rev. Nanette Sawyer and Rob Clearfield, which in turn is based on the Dinner Church practice developed by St. Lydia's in Brooklyn.

PREPARING THE MEAL AND THE TABLE

We prepare the meal and the tables together. When you are ready, please have a seat.

GATHERING AROUND THE LIGHT

Welcome – we gather together to share a sacred meal just as the first followers of Jesus did. We will stand at our tables and face the candle:

"ALLELUIA"

BLESSING THE MEAL

We bless our meal singing:

HYMN #513: *Let Us Break Bread Together (verse 3, sung once)*

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

BREAKING THE BREAD

While Jesus was eating bread with his disciples, he took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks to God for it, he broke it, gave it to them, and said:
"Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me."

HYMN #513: *Let Us Break Bread Together (verse 1, sung once)*

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Holy food for Holy people. Share in the meal.

*We will now share the bread. You are welcome to lift your peace of bread and say to one another
"This is Christ's body" before eating.*

BRUNCH AND COMMUNITY

Now, we eat together. We'll spend the first part of our meal in conversation, then move into the scripture reading and a time of Holy Conversation where we will move around and have a special series of discussions.

THE READING

MATTHEW 6:7-21

COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

Proper prayer

⁷ "When you pray, don't pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they'll be heard. ⁸ Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. ⁹ Pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven,
uphold the holiness of your name.

¹⁰ Bring in your kingdom
so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven.

¹¹ Give us the bread we need for today.

¹² Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you,
just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.

¹³ And don't lead us into temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴ "If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you don't forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your sins.

Showy fasting

¹⁶ “And when you fast, don’t put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. ¹⁷ When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸ Then you won’t look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Earthly and heavenly treasures

¹⁹ “Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. ²⁰ Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. ²¹ Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

HOLY CONVERSATION

This morning we will use our time of Holy Conversation to begin discerning together who God is calling us to be moving forward. You are invited to go to one of the tables in the back, where the table leader will guide your discussion around one of these four questions: After a period of time, you will be invited to join another table with another question. You will have an opportunity to visit each of the four tables.

- What do you think your gifts are as a person?
- What is your vision for our church?
- What do you think our strengths are as a church?
- What could we do better as a church? How might we do that?

CENTERING MUSIC

Chris will gather us back together with music after our conversation. Please return to your seats.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For our time of prayer, we will begin and end with singing

HYMN 471 *“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” (Glory to God):*

○ Lord, hear my prayer.
○ Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
○ Lord, hear my prayer.
○ Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

***...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.***

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When I call, answer me.
○ Lord, hear my prayer.
○ Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

BLESSING THE CUP

We bless the cup at the end of our meal, just as Jesus did when he was at table with the disciples. Please make sure you have your cup for Communion ready.

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and said, "This is the cup of the renewed covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink of it, do this remembering me.

We lift our cups and sing

HYMN #513: *Let Us Break Bread Together (verse 2, sung once)*

Then everyone drinks from their cup.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)

When I fall on my knees,

With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

CLOSING SONG #438: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

JOHN FAWCETT

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

CLEANING UP AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

January 29th - Brunch Church

It's our first Fifth Sunday of the year. We will celebrate with a Brunch Church service at 11. During the service the Transition Team will be leading us through a series of questions for our time of Holy Conversation.

February 5th - Scout Sunday

Our Scouts from the Pack and Troop will join us in worship.

February 7th – Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries 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.

Invitation to Snow Ski

You are invited to Snow Ski with the Scouts of Troop 9. Lessons provided, Learn to Ski, and have a Great Time. Contact Jeff Benes for more details and to sign up.

Jeff Benes
Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

Scouts Looking for Storage Space

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:
2 camping trailers, 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).
Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, January 29th - Brunch Sunday, Communion & Congregational Meeting

11:00 – Brunch & Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 1st

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, February 4th - Scout Sunday

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

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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