



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 16, 2020 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



"You must not pledge by the earth, because it's God's footstool. You must not pledge by Jerusalem, because it's the city of the great king. And you must not pledge by your head, because you can't turn one hair white or black. Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no. Anything more than this comes from the evil one."

Matthew 5:35-37 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In his book, Smarter Faster Better: The Secrets of Being Productive in Life and Business, Charles Duhigg discusses high achievers who seem to be able to do just about everything. Some people are like that! What makes them so successful? Duhigg, comparing his own life to theirs, says he felt as though he was splashing about in a kiddie pool, while the others were swimming in an Olympic pool. In today's text, Jesus also compares the kiddie pool and the Olympic pool. (from Homiletics Online resource - February 12, 2017)

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *In the Sanctuary*

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

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 HYMN: *God Is Calling Through the Whisper*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.*

*Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

As we offer a welcome to stranger and friend, as we are embraced in their kindness,

we choose to be people of life and blessing.

As we serve others in God's name, as we receive blessings from those we do not know,

we choose to walk in God's way.

As we forgive those who have hurt us, as we reach out to those we have harmed,

we choose to be reconciled to our sisters and brothers.

*** OPENING HYMN #466:** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 5:21-37

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1174

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

You do not stand there with a ruler in your fist, ready to smack our hands whenever we do wrong, but are that gentle Parent who wants only the best for your children always.

You do not look at us through the lenses of judgment, but see us as your sisters and brothers who have wandered away, and so you reach out and take our hands so we might walk together.

You do not hold anything back, but you fill our empty lives with the waters of grace and peace, so we might overflow with love, wonder, joy, and hope, true blessings to the world.

God in Community, Holy in One, may we choose always and in all ways to be your people.

With every choice we make, we show how faithful we are to God's hopes for us. Yet, despite the mistakes we make, the missteps we take, God remains forgiving and gracious.

How often we make the wrong choices. We look at others through the prism of lust, distorting who they really are. We let our 'mad' feed us with bitterness and hurt. We toss about harmful words like so many snowballs on a winter's day. We would rather insult those around us, than to lift them up.

Have mercy on us, God who is everywhere. May we set aside our quarreling natures to be united in common worship, common service, and a common purpose, as we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Christ came, so we might be healed by God's tender touch. Christ came, so we might be reconciled to one another.

Thanks be to God! As risky, as hard as it may be, we will choose to be God's people. Amen.

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *We Are Forgiven*

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (Repeat)

HAL HOPSON

* 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?

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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: *All Glory Be to God on High*

FRIEDRICH WILHELM ZACHAU

*** A DOXOLOGY #422:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Are One in the Spirit*

PETER SCHOLTES

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

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

THE WORD IN MUSIC

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Jesus' Stretch Goals*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #536:** *Lord, Make Us More Holy*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

* **SENDING**

Go now, with God's love,

we will choose to be a blessing to others.

Go now, with Christ's hope,

we will choose to serve all in need.

Go now, with the Spirit's peace,

we will choose to share life in every moment.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

STRALSUND GESANGBUCH

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). 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).

“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 today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Call to Worship* resources from the PCUSA.

In Chris’ absence this morning we welcome once again our guest organist, **Michael Bayless**. Michael is principal at Ray Street School, and occasionally plays for churches who are in need of a substitute. We certainly appreciate Michael sharing his talents with us this morning.

The Session has called for a **Congregational Meeting, and Meeting of the Corporation** to immediately follow our worship service today **Sunday, February 16th**. The purpose of these meetings is receive the budget for 2020, and to elect the President and Treasurer of the Corporation.

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: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook

Diane Miller
Peter Slater

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin

Joan Richardson
Teresa Willborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley

Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Glenn Thompson
Carol Brooks
Lou Crutchfield

Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Family of Foy Bayliff
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp
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.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for February are **Randy Cousins** and **Bill Abplanalp**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 12:00 - Congregational Meeting and Meeting of the Corporation

Tuesday, the 18th:

- Meeting of Salem Presbytery, Clemmons Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, the 19th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 23rd:

- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 - Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson,

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love learn serve



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

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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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