



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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February 18, 2018 – 11:00 am

First Sunday in Lent



"After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, 'Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!'"
Mark 1:14-15 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Long novels are making a comeback. Want a novel that you can live with for a while? Something that's like 800 pages long? These days, such novels are not hard to find. This brings us, by contrast, to the shortest of the gospels, Mark. In just seven verses of today's text, the writer gives us a breathtaking summary of the person, work and life of Jesus Christ.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Oh How He Loves You and Me*

K. KAISER (TO/J88)

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 #293:** *This Is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, so God might open our eyes,

that we may discover the wonders surrounding us; that we may embrace the joy deep within us.

We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,

that we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us; that we may sing the melodies of hope.

We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,
that we may walk that street named Enduring Love; that we may wait at the corner called Faithfulness.

* **OPENING HYMN #81:** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:9-15

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1215

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

God takes our broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives, praying,

We admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with you, God of Glory. In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments of silence, of learning. In that flood of worries, which can overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have not cut us off from your grace. In the deserts of our desires, we may ignore that feast of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us.

Forgive us and have mercy on us. In humility, may we offer our lives to others. In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

In every wilderness, on every road; in every moment, in every life; in every journey, in every heart, we receive the daily bread we need – God's hope, God's mercy, God's joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #404:** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

ALONDRA MENDEZ, SOLOIST

*** THE DOXOLOGY:**

*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.*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

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

*** PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness*

*Lord, we hear your word with gladness: you have spoken – we rejoice:
Words of love and life and freedom – help us make their truth our choice!
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.*

HOLY MANNA

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I Lay My Sins on Jesus*

H. BONAR / A. FOSTER

*I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all, and frees us from the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus, to wash my crimson stains
White in His blood most precious, till not a stain remains.
I lay my wants on Jesus; all fullness dwells in Him;
He healeth my diseases, He doth my soul redeem.
I long to be like Jesus, meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus, the Father's holy Child.
I long to be with Jesus, amid the heavenly throng,
To sing with them His praises, and learn the angels' song.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***A Brief History of Jesus***
Text: Mark 1:9-15

REV. JOHNSON
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1215

*** HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* (see page 5)

BEACH SPRING

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

May the God of Lent be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, open your hearts.

We open them to the One who calls us 'Beloved.'

Beloved of God, give thanks and praise to the One who loves you forever.

We sing our hymns of joy to the One who leads us into the kingdom.

Hearts overflow with you, Covenant Keeper, as we lift our hearts to you . . . So, we lift our voices with those who waited patiently, and with those who trust your covenantal promises, joining the choirs of heaven and earth, who forever sing of your hope and love:

***Holy, holy, holy are you, Everlasting God of grace. Every living creature in heaven and earth sing your praises.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who sits as your right hand of mercy. Hosanna in the highest.***

Faithful and holy are you, Creator of all, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Steadfast Love and Hope . . . As we begin once more our Lenten journey, as we seek to follow faithfully, remembering the life, the death, the resurrection of Jesus, we tell the story of that mystery we call faith:

Christ died to set us free from sin; Christ was raised to break the power of death; Christ will come again, to bring the kingdom as close to us as God's heart.

Pour out your Spirit of imagination upon this bread, and this cup, gifts of your good and wonderful creation . . . And when we are gathered around the Table with your beloved children of every time and place, our songs will join together as our tears of joy mingle, singing your praises forever and ever to you: God of David and Rebecca, of Mary and Noah; Jesus of the outcast and lonely; Spirit of those who seek peace and reconciliation: we pray as Christ taught us:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Now go, to be God's blessing to others.

We will not stop measuring out our love by the spoonful, but shower everyone with it.

Now go, to tell share the story of Jesus' love and hope for all.

We will go to speak of the One who, with grace and wonder, shows everyone who they are and who they might be.

Now go, to pour out the Spirit's compassion in every corner of your life.

We will go to care for everyone, even those we do not know.

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* CLOSING HYMN: *Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*

EBENEZER

Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread:

"Use your power," the tempter tells him; "Turn these barren rocks to bread!"

"Not alone by bread," he answers, "Can the human heart be filled.

Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!"

Jesus, tempted at the temple, high above its ancient wall:

"Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!"

Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feasts that fickle crowds request:

"God, whose grace protects, preserves us, we must never vainly test."

Jesus, tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain:

"Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!"

Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way:

"God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!"

When we face temptation's power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,

Christ, who knew the tempter's hour, come and be our living bread.

By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall your trust betray.

Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

* LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF FEAR

In this season of Lent, we reflect on the meaning of our lives and on our journey of faith. The candles are burning now, but in the weeks to come the light will slowly fade to darkness. For in retelling the story of Jesus' betrayal, suffering, and death, we find that God brings transformation and new possibility out of darkness.

We walk with Christ to the cross, letting go of all that holds us back from new life.

As we extinguish this light, we let go of our fear – fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of illness, or death, fear of meaninglessness.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Loving God, as we journey through the holy season of Lent, give us the courage to walk toward you, to step out in faith, and to let go of fear. Open our hearts so that we may love fully and allow ourselves to be fully loved. Amen.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE: Sing Praises to the Changing Year**

H. TURNER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

LORD'S SUPPER

Loaves Were Broken, 498 Words Were Spoken

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)
F Dm B^b

1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your

(D) (Bm)
F Dm

le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their
room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you
gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: "I am
name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that

(G) (D) (A)
B^b F C

food for - ev - er - more.
came as Light from Light. By your bod - y bro - ken
with you; do not fear!"
tell your love and care.

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
Dm Am Dm B^b C F

for us, by your wine of life out-poured, Je - sus, feed a -

(Bm) (G) (D)
Dm B^b F

gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.



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 **Brandon Troxler**. 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:

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

Today is the **First Sunday in Lent** and marks the beginning of our journey to the cross. We are also beginning a **Lenten Discipline Challenge**. You are receiving today a trash bag, and the challenge to place one thing from your closet or your home that you aren't using anymore in the bag each day, filling it up with 40 items by the end of Lent. You are then asked to donate these items to one of our local agencies.

This being the First Sunday in Lent, our service today includes the **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**. As is our custom, communion will be served by intinction. As instructed, please come forward by the middle aisle to the serving elders closest to you. Tear off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Return to your seat by the side aisle. Anyone unable to come forward will be served at your seat.

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.

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.

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 February are **Jean Payne** and **Chip Allen**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- First Sunday in Lent
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Tuesday, the 20th:

- Meeting of Salem Presbytery – Highland Presbyterian, Winston-Salem
- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 21st:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 25th:

- Second Sunday in Lent
- 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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