



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 23, 2020 – 11:00 am

Transfiguration of the Lord



*“Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,
and brought them to the top of a very high mountain.
He was transformed in front of them. His face shone like the sun,
and his clothes became as white as light.”
Matthew 17:1-2 (CEB)*

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The problem with mountaintop experiences is that at some point you have to come down off that mountain. The high ends and we have to return to normal everyday life. Our Gospel text for this morning tells us about a mountaintop experience that Jesus had. But unlike ours, this one didn’t end.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

DON HUSTAD

CHORAL INTROIT: *Holy Ground*

GERON DAVIS

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: *I Love You, Lord*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship You, oh, my soul rejoice.

Take joy my King, in what you hear. Let it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Do you see it? In fire and cloud our God appears:

the glory of the Lord settles over us.

Do you hear it? A voice thunders from heaven:

“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.”

Open your eyes; unstop your ears. We are gathered on holy ground.

Let us magnify the Lord!

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 17:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1193

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Holy God, who revealed the Messiah on the mountain, fill us with praise, overflowing with cheers and mysterious visions.

Light our way; direct our course; and energize us, for we have one more mountain to climb, through Jesus Christ, who is the light.

When we enter into the Lord's glorious presence and behold the holiness of our God, we find our sin revealed and our brokenness laid bare. Of our own accord, we can do nothing to make ourselves worthy to stand in God's presence. But, in infinite mercy, the Most High draws near to us and envelops us with grace.

Holy One, we search for you amidst the grand and glorious, the sacred and serene. We are eager to bask in your splendor and dwell with you in sanctuaries that shelter us from the sorrow of this world. We forget you are also present in the ordinary and profane, the desperate and despised.

You send us back down the mountain to proclaim your law of grace and live your command of love—to tread the path that Jesus tread.

Transform us, embolden us, and free us from fear, that we might be beacons of your light.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Disciples, even in his radiance and glory, our Lord comes to us and says, do not be afraid. And, indeed, we have no reason to fear. For the light of Christ shines in our hearts, casting out the shadows of sin and death.

Give glory to the Lord of Heaven, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355: *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967

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.

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*

WILLIAM J. KIRKPATRICK

* **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: *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

PETER SCHOLTES

192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining Shine, Jesus, Shine

Capo 2: (G) (C) (G) (D) (G)
A D A E A

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our

(C) (G) (D) (C) (D)
D A E D E

midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may
fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from

(Bm7) (Em7) (C) (D) (Bm7)
C#m7 F#m7 D E C#m7

World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now
en - ter your bright-ness. Search me; try me; con - sume all my
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your

(Em7) (F) (Dsus)(D) (F) (Dsus)(D)
F#m7 G Esus E G Esus E

bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.
dark - ness. Shine on me; shine on me.
sto - ry. Shine on me; shine on me.

Refrain (G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)
A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (Am/G) (F) (D7sus)(D7)
A E F#m D A Bm Bm/A G E7sus E7

Blaze, Spir - it, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)
A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
A E F#m D A Bm E7 A

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

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: *May This Journey (Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer)*

MARGARET BECKER / KEITH GETTY

Jesus draw me ever nearer as I labor through the storm.

You have called me to this passage, and I'll follow though I'm worn.

May this journey bring a blessing, may I rise on wings of faith;

And at the end of my heart's testing, with your likeness let me wake.

Jesus, guide me through the tempest, keep my spirit staid and sure.

When the midnight meets the morning, let me love You even more.

Let the treasures of the trial form within me as I go.

And at the end of this long passage, let me leave them at Your throne.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *A Mountaintop Experience*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #485: *To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

* SENDING

God sends us from this experience of worship to serve all those around us.

We will go to take the light of hope into the shadowed corners in our midst.

Jesus, the Beloved, invites us to join him in everyday life, in everyday service.

We will go to be blessed by all those overlooked by the world.

Glory's Spirit takes us by the hand to lead us down path of humility.

We will enter into the mists of mistrust, so we can offer hope to many.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *The Great Physician*

JOHN H. STOCKTON

* *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 **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 today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnal
- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.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 liturgical season of **Lent** begins this **Wednesday, February 26th**. This begins a 40-day journey with Jesus to the cross. Join us on Wednesday as we begin this journey - first in fellowship around the table with our annual **Pancake Supper at 5:30**, followed by our **Ash Wednesday Service** of worship at **7:00**. Come, and be blessed!

Join us following worship on **Sunday, March 1st** for our **First Sunday Lunch!** Come to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious Baked Potato and Salad Bar. Desserts will be provided by Presbyterian Women. Donations for our Youth Program will be graciously accepted! Mark your calendars!

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	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Shirley Lane
Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney
Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore	Katherine Turner
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	Ben Johnson	Shelvia Russell
Katherine Bayliff	Alex Thomas	Family of Foy Bayliff
Randy Thompson	Glenn Thompson	Ritchie Fishburne
Frederica Beatty	Carol Brooks	Janie Holt Clapp
Christopher Bagley	Lou Crutchfield	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

Wednesday, the 26th:

- 5:30 - Pancake Supper
- 7:00 - Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, the 1st:

- **First Sunday in Lent**
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 - Worship / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 12:00 - First Sunday Lunch

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



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

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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