



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypresbyterian.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 26, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Transfiguration of the Lord



“Peter was still speaking when a cloud overshadowed them. As they entered the cloud, they were overcome with awe. Then a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!” Even as the voice spoke, Jesus was found alone. They were speechless and at the time told no one what they had seen.
Luke 9:34-36 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Dazzling Lord, in blinding light you showed your disciples a hint of your power and purpose. Reveal yourself to us today. Show us what you desire of us and how to broadcast your love to the world, for the sake of the one who keeps company with the prophets Moses and Elijah, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE: *Bread of the World in Mercy Broken*

J. CALKINS

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 SONG:** *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

BRAZILIAN FOLK MELODY

*Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.*

(Refrain) Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.

Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.

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

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.*

Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.*

Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the radiance of Christ be evident among us:

in our songs and our words;

in our deepest thoughts and desires;

in the youthful and the experienced, the exhausted and the energetic;

in the hungry and the scared.

We are here together. We join our voices and our hearts in praise.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* HYMN OF PRAISE #293: *This Is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

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.

God of the mountaintop and of the plain, we remember today the Transfiguration of Jesus. Glorious, mysterious, and shimmering with light, you know our hearts, our triumphs, and our disasters. Take us as we are; love us as we are; join with us and transform us into your holy ones.

Though we want to walk with Moses and see God's holy radiance,

we hide in the mist of our own desires, unable to perceive the presence of God's grace.

While we want a world of justice and peace,

we walk in clouds of selfishness, unable to share God's loving-kindness.

Though we want to follow Jesus up the mountain,

we cower in fear, unable to bear the light of God.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In the blazing light of God's grace, Jesus touches us to say,

"Get up and do not be afraid." In the name of Christ, all is forgiven. 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)

Feel 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.

We believe in God;

Who is older than eternity and younger than our next breath; who is beyond describing yet knows us all by name; who inspires faith yet cannot be contained by religion.

We believe in Jesus Christ, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;

He came in the body to give worth to every human life. He touched the untouchable, loved the unlovable, forgave the unforgivable and endured slander, persecution and death in order that through suffering love God's kingdom might come on earth. He rose from the grave as living proof that what is laid down in faith will be raised in glory. He ascended to heaven that he might be present at all times to all people.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

Who leads us into truth and freedom, who gives good gifts to all God's children, who inspires research, enables prayer, and wills that human economics and politics should prioritize justice, care of the earth and the healing of the nations.

We celebrate the potential of the Church,

The life in our bodies, the yearning in our souls, the promise of good things in store for those who love the Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *He Lifted Me*

C. GABRIEL / ARR. BOCK

*** DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

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**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

HYMN OF THE DAY #73: *Swiftly Pass the Clouds of glory*

GENEVA

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Thy Word*

AMY GRANT

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

THE SPOKEN WORD

Lord, silence any voice but your own.

That we may hear you speaking to us on this day.

A Reading from Luke 9:28-36

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1260

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Grace Medley*

ARR. CLYDESDALE (J. JOHNSTON, D. TOWNER, J. NEWTON, J. REES)

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!

Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!*

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found, Was blind, but now I see.*

*Dark is the stain that we cannot hide. What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide, brighter than snow you may be today.*

*Grace, marvelous grace, Oh God's infinite grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, marvelous grace, Oh God's infinite grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun.*

SERMON: *THE TUNNEL AT THE END OF THE LIGHT*

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #404:** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

ALLEN / DORSEY

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Choral Song*

S. WESLEY / ARR. D. WELLS

* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*



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.bethanypresbyterian.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 **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, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Make your plans to join in worship **on this Ash Wednesday, March 1st for our annual Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm**. The service will include prayers, scripture, music, sharing the word, and the Imposition of Ashes. Join us as we begin the penitent season of Lent together.

Next Sunday, March 5th marks the First Sunday in Lent as we begin our journey together to the cross. Our service will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)

Recently we marked the **Kickoff of our 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, **Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher**. Mark your calendars for our other celebration events:

- **Sunday, May 28th – Rev. Norman Whitney**, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23rd – Concert** by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th – Culmination of anniversary celebration / Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

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 Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

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

Bill Faucette
Faye Campbell
Frances Nolan

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Polly & Dick Wilson

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Joey Leake

Layla Benoklen
Ida Whitney
Rachel Poteat
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Ron Chilton

Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norman Mize
Gail Sloane (friend of Joy Saleeby)

Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Harold Baldwin
Duffy Strigo
Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **Spencer, Oak Ridge, and Larry Freeman, Counselor at Wake Forest Health**. Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

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 a study guide that correlates with the preaching text and themes that are used in our worship services.

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.

Join us **this Tuesday, February 28th at 5:30 pm** as our youth will serve a delicious **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. This is the traditional day of "feasting" before the penitence and sacrifice of the season of Lent which begins the next day. Donations for our youth program will be accepted.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for February are **Jean Payne and Glenn Patterson**.

The congregation has been mailed a letter soliciting donations for replacement of our 40-some-year-old boiler! We are hoping that it will make it through the winter, so this work can be completed in the spring. Please see Ron Kimrey if you have any questions. And thanks in advance for your generosity.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Tuesday, the 28th:

- 5:30 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Wednesday, the 29th:

- 7:00 – Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, the 1st:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 19*

Sunday, the 5th:

- FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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