



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

February 27, 2022 – 11:00 am

*Transfiguration of the Lord*



*"Blinded by the Light!" – R. Miller*

While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work.  
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."  
John 9:4-5 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *New Life in Christ*

WILL STOCKTON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

As God spoke, calling light out of darkness,  
*God's glory shines in the face of Jesus Christ.*

### LITANY FOR TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Blessed is the Lord our God, who revealed the law to Moses. *The Lord our God is holy!*

Blessed is the Lord our God, who has spoken through the prophets. *The Lord our God is holy!*

Blessed is the Lord our God, who came to us in Jesus Christ. *The Lord our God is holy!*

The one who spoke and called light out of darkness now shines in our hearts. *The Lord our God is holy!*

The one who comes and does not keep silence now speaks in our midst. ***The Lord our God is holy!***  
Now we have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ***The Lord our God is holy!***

Great God of dazzling beauty and overshadowing majesty, in Jesus Christ, your beloved, we glimpse in the image of your glory. Teach us to listen to him so that we may hear your voice and follow your way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***Amen.***

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

CHARLES WESLEY

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,  
And sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,  
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of shining splendor, your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder. Overshadow us with your Spirit so that we may hear your Word and live as faithful disciples and covenant people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 27:1-4**

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 682

**JOHN 9:1-41**

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1304

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Jesus said: Nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not come to light. Trusting in God's grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves.

***God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory, but we turn away, distracted by our own plans. We confess that we speak when we should listen, and act when we should wait. Forgive our aimless enthusiasms. Grant us wisdom to live in your light and to follow in the way of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.***

### A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The one who calls light out of darkness now shines in our hearts to reveal the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*Amen.*

## \* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

As we continue to remain apart, if you would to give please donate online or send your check into the office. Let us honor that which we have been blessed to give.

## \* A Doxology #428: *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

William W. How

We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

## \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## \* HYMN OF THE DAY #280: *Amazing Grace*

JOHN NEWTON

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

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'd first begun.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*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.*

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE**

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *God and God Alone*

Piano Solo

PHILL MCHUGH

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"Unblinded by the Light"*

REV. JON PHILLIPS

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

**\* CLOSING HYMN #324:** *Open My Eyes That I May See*

CLARA H. SCOTT

Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain:

Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes (ears, heart), illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear  
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
Everything false will disappear. (Refrain)

Open my mouth, and let me bear,  
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share. (Refrain)

**\* CLOSING RESPONSES**

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ***Alleluia!***  
Love one another; serve the Lord; live peaceably with all. ***Thanks be to God.***

**\* POSTLUDE:** *Marvelous is Thy Name*

ROBERT J. HUGHES

*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*

# Hymn Story

## Open My Eyes

Psalm 119:18 is a prayer for spiritual insight. It asks God, “Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.” Reading that verse inspired Clara Scott to write the hymn “Open My Eyes.” The opening verse of the hymn asks, “Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.”

But Clara was not satisfied to pray for open eyes. She also wrote, “Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.”

And she was not satisfied to ask God to receive blessings. She also prayed that God would make her a blessing by helping her to speak to others about what God had revealed to her. She wrote, “Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.”

Clara understood, and helped countless others to understand, that it is more blessed to give than to receive — and that we, as Christians, are called to share the good news that we have received.

Clara wrote a number of other hymns, and even published a book entitled, *Truth in Song for Lovers of Truth*— but “Open My Eyes” is the hymn for which she is remembered today.

Clara published “Open My Eyes” in 1895. Two years later, as she was riding in a carriage, her horse was spooked and began running crazily through the streets. Clara was thrown from the carriage and killed. Reflecting on that, one of her biographers commented that she never knew how popular her hymn, “Open My Eyes” had become.

But I believe that one of her heavenly blessings will be to know just how many people have been blessed by the hymn that she wrote so late in her life.

— Copyright 2007, Richard Niell Donovan



# *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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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.**

**A Note About the Offering:** As we are temporarily worshipping online only during this time, you are invited to make your contribution in one of two ways: mail it in to the church, or use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Tina Patterson and Kim Snyder)

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

**Bethany Members**

Linda Abplanalp  
Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Shelvia Russell

Christopher Bagley  
Sylvia Donley  
Ruby Martin  
Mike Sutton  
Ida Whitney

Katherine Bayliff  
Henry Flythe  
Joyce & Norman Mize  
Nancy Sutton

**Friends of Bethany**

Carol Brooks  
Bill Faucette  
Christy Lutterloh  
Diane Miller  
Peter Slater  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Teresa Wilborn  
Frank Wrenn

Janie Holt Clapp  
Ben Johnson  
Gaynell McCollum  
Norma Proctor  
The Family of John Sutton  
Alex Thomas  
Deborah & Larry

Jack Cook  
Grace Johnson  
Anne McDaniels  
Shannon Russell  
Ann Sutton  
Randy Thompson  
Cindy Uzzo  
Don Burenhiede

**TEACH Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

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) - NOT CURRENTLY MEETING DUE TO COVID

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, Randy Cousins, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for February are **Karen Maxwell** and **Shelby Smith**.

**Anniversaries & Birthdays**

- Helen & Glenn Byrd – February 28<sup>th</sup>  
\*\*\*\*\*
- Bobby Peele – February 7<sup>th</sup>
- Kayla Donley – February 8<sup>th</sup>
- Laura Mitchell-Ayers – February 16<sup>th</sup>
- Joyce Peele – February 18<sup>th</sup>
- Rick Purcell – February 21<sup>st</sup>

**Liturgist**

February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chip Allen
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Maxwell
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Brown
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (Live Stream)

Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> :

- 11-1 and 4-6 - Drive Thru Ashes
- 6:30 – No Choir Practice

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> - First Sunday in Lent :

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (Live Stream)

**bethany presbyterian**  
love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

1500 S. Main Street  
Graham, NC 27215

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)  
336.227.4041

### 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](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – [chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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