



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 8, 2020 – 11:00 am
Second Sunday in Lent



“There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.’”
John 3:1-2 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Loving God, you have given me the gift of this new day, and you send me out to live it fully and well. Help me to be attentive to your direction and leading. If you should call me to go in some direction, give me courage to try this new thing. If you present me with a mysterious truth or grace, help me to understand, or to seek understanding, with a sense of wonder and faith. Whatever this day may hold, I trust that you will keep me in all my comings and goings. In your Son’s name, I pray. Amen.” - Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Lenten Meditation*

LOUISE E. STAIRS

CHORAL INTROIT: *Amazing Love*

SAGINA

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 #469: *Morning Has Broken*

BUNESSAN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who need help!

Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

Come, all who desire blessing!

Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.

Come, all who long for salvation!

Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

JOHN 3:1-17

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1292

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Christ of the comfortable, you would call us from our security and sameness, down that unknown path which leads to God's heart:

with trust, we would place our hands in yours, and follow.

Companion of our sleepless nights, you would beckon us out of the shadows of our fears, calling us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts along:

with humility, we would listen to those answers we do not expect, or even understand.

Word which creates out of nothingness, you would fill us with life where we see only emptiness, you would keep your promises when all ours lie littered on the ground:

we would let your grace transform us into faithful disciples.

Keeper of every moment,

walk with us, we pray.

Watcher in the night:

stay with us, we pray.

Spirit of new life:

be in us, as we pray.

When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow, calling us to set aside our foolish lives, for the grace-full ones which are offered to us. Let us confess how often we choose not to follow:

We are all too human, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch over us, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom.

You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

Keeper of our souls, be with us; Watcher of our days, lead us; Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #579: *Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

* 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.

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In

this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Be Still, My Soul*

JEAN SIBELIUS

* **THE DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDETH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #383:** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OLIVET

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: *And Can It Be*

CHARLES WESLEY / THOMAS CAMPBELL

*And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
He left His Father's throne above (so free, so infinite His grace),
Emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race;
Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it reaches me!
Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Old I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *From Darkness to Light*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

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

ST. FLAVIAN

* **SENDING**

Now go with the Spirit, from the comfort of this place,
so we may go to bring hope to the world.
Now carry the Light of Christ with you,
we will go into the shadows with this gift.
Now trust in God who is always with you,
we will follow that life called discipleship.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *I Take the Cross of Jesus*

RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS

* *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:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *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 Academy, and occasionally plays for churches who are in need of a substitute. We certainly appreciate Michael sharing his talents with us this morning.

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
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney

Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley
Harry Smith

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

Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Family of Foy Bayliff
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp
Robert Sykes
Jean Payne

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

Our **Lenten Study *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*** continues each Monday evening for six weeks, beginning on Monday, March 2nd at 7:00 here at the church. Come join us even if you have not signed up. Books can be ordered and arrive very quickly.

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 March are **Chip Allen** and **Tina Patterson**.

The **Session** is reminded of their monthly stated meeting this **Tuesday, March 10th** at 7:00 pm.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **Second Sunday in Lent**
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 9th:

- 7:00 - Lenten Study Series, *The Walk*

Tuesday, the 10th:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 11th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 15th:

- **Third Sunday in Lent**
- 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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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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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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