



Bethany Presbyterian Church

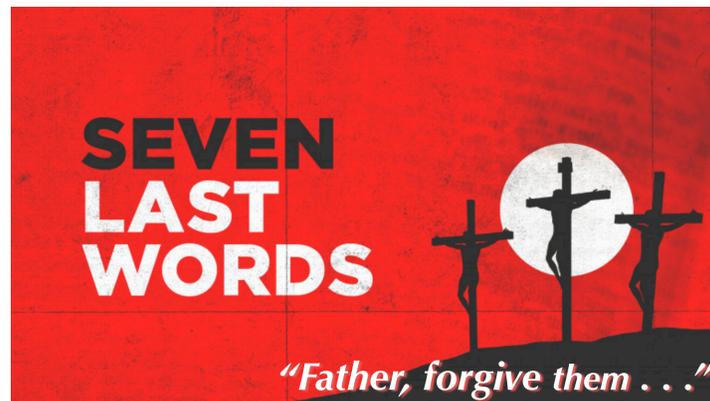
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 10, 2019 – 11:00 am

First Sunday in Lent



"When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.'"

Luke 23:33-34a (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Dear God, thank you for forgiving us when we did not know what we were doing. Even as we remained sinners, you sacrificed your only son to suffer and die for us. You have shown us mercy and given us grace. As we begin his journey to the cross, and hear these last words of Christ, open our ears, our hearts, and our minds so that we might learn more about you and your eternal love for us. Amen.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Cross of Sorrow*

S. KEENEY

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: *God Is Calling Through the Whisper*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?*

*God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

*** OPENING HYMN #84: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory***

RATHBUN

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

As God has spoken in ages gone by.

God speaks now to us.

Hear the word of the Lord.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

LUKE 23:26, 33-34A

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1286

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Hope is the inheritance you give to us, so we might discover that when we are tempted we may call out to you for help; that even when we stumble during our journey, we are carried in your hands.

Grace is the inheritance you share with us, not that we might hoard it for ourselves and loved ones only, but we would be willing to be generous to all we meet, making no distinction when it comes to our sisters and brothers.

Peace is the inheritance we receive from you, not that we might settle in and claim it only for a special few, but that we might turn it into that place of refuge for all, where mercy and hope flow into each person's life.

All that we have is an inheritance from you, God in Community, Holy in One, blessings to be shared with all. God makes no distinction between us. We are all sinners, we are all children of God, we are all precious to God, and we are all saved by God.

We meet you here, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. Your people, we treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.

So now we bring our hearts to you, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. As you hear our faltering words, we pray you would answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

As you have confessed, do you so believe? The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope.

This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our live. 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**

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. 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: *Are Ye Able*

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

*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.*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

L. PUGH
OLD HUNDRETH

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Thy Way, O Lord*

NINA JACKSON

*Thy way, O Lord, not mine,
Thy will be done, not mine;
Since thou for me did bleed,
And now doth intercede,
Each day I simply plead,
Thy will be done.*

Refrain:

*Thy will, thy will be done,
Thy will, thy will be done;
Incline my heart each day to say,
"Thy will be done."*

*Submissively I bow;
With strength and grace endow
This weary, sinful heart;
Shield from each cruel dart;
May I from thee ne'er part,
Thy will be done. [Refrain]*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: FATHER, FORGIVE THEM . . .

REV. JOHNSON

*** HYMN OF PREPARATION #510:** *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

QUEBEC

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: 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 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.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (see next page)

WELSH MELODY

* **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:** *Go Forth in Faith*

C. GALE

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). Whether you are a member or a guest 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 this morning’s worship:

- *Final Words From the Cross* resource, by Adam Hamilton
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

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.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Randy Cousins)

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
Levi Byrd
Foy Bayliff
Dusty Kimrey

Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson

Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Alex Thomas
Bill Abplanalp
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.

Our weekly Bible study, ***Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World***, meets each Tuesday (except for the second Tuesday of the month) at 7:00 here at the church. The second part of the study focuses on Luke and Acts.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Ben Russell)

It's **Scholarship Season!!** All post-high school students are invited to apply for a scholarship from our Scholarship Fund. **The deadline is March 31st.** Scholarship applications are available in the mailboxes across from the office. Please see Ron Osborne if you have any questions.

As per his Terms of Call that the congregation approved upon his coming to Bethany, John is scheduled for a **Sabbatical** in 2020. Articles in the past few newsletters have outlined some of the details. Each week, there will be more information shared in this space. If you have questions, please feel free to ask John, or the Sabbatical Support Group (Helen Brown, Ron Kimrey, Sandy Russell, and Tracey Troxler). Here's this week's tidbit:

- The Lily Grant Application is completed and hopefully will be submitted this week. It will be presented to the Session on Tuesday for their endorsement.
- Please see the March newsletter for an extended article about the grant application process.

The **Session** is reminded of its monthly stated meeting on this **Tuesday, the 12th at 7:00 pm**

Elders of the Month for March are **A. J. Campbell** and **Randy Cousins**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 11th:

- 7:00 - Circle #3

Tuesday, the 12th:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 13th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 17th:

- **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 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

bethany presbyterian

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

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.