



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

March 12, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

*Second Sunday in Lent*



*“He replied, ‘Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did.’”*

Luke 13:2-3 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Holy One of mighty power, Your word is powerfully dangerous. Your word casts out demons. Your word heals incurable diseases. Your word devours empires. Your word transforms the fabric of the universe. Help us to stand in awe and fear of what your word is capable of doing. Give us courage to speak your word and wisdom to hear it, for the sake of the one whose very whisper can demolish sin, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**PRELUDE:** *Fugal Chorale on “O Sacred Head”*

S. SAXTON

### 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 #438:** *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

DENNIS

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, because we seek our God.

***Every morning, every day, every evening, every moment, God is with us.***

We come, because we hunger for Christ.

**Jesus will feed us with hope, will replace our emptiness with grace.**

We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

**Who fills our yearning for peace, who ends the drought of justice.**

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE #488:** *The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

### AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

This is the season of turning. We are called on this journey to turn our lives to the Lord, to turn away from all those things which have harmed us and others; to separate ourselves from actions and attitudes that demean and destroy.

***It is far too easy for us to sink into the mire of self-pity and self-serving attitudes, wondering why everything isn't coming our way. We want comfort, contentment, no stress, no struggle. Yet our lives are filled with stress and discontent. We hurt, Lord. We hurt in our bodies and our souls. We hurt in our relationships with others.***

How we must try your patience! We don't want to be like this - we want to feel the warmth of your love, the freedom of your spirit, the joy of serving you. Forgive us for our selfishness and stupidity. Heal us.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

We are given another chance! God has heard our cries. We turn again to the Lord. We find comfort and strength in God's eternal love for us.

***We are healed and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.***

\* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *We Are Forgiven*

TRADITIONAL / HAL HOPSON

# 447

## We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C  
We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
G Am7 Dsus D G Am  
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G  
We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

\* **SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

EXCERPTED FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

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.***

To whom do we belong?

*In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.*

In whom do we trust?

*We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.*

In what do we rejoice?

*With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

#### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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.*

#### AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** *O How He Loves You and Me*

K. KAISER / ARR. F. BOCK

\* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

**HYMN OF THE DAY #408:** *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

GERMANY

#### MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #324:** *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*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.  
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, thy will to see;  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

#### 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 13:1-9  
This is Holy Scripture for God's people.  
**Thanks be to God!**

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1268

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Psalm 150*

L. LEWANDOWSKI

*Hallelujah! Praise the Lord in His holy place.  
Praise the Lord in His firmament.  
Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord in the firmament of all His power.  
Sing ye to Him for His great and mighty wonders.  
Hallelujah! O praise Him with trumpet, and praise Him with psaltery and harp.  
O praise Him with timbrel and dancing.  
O praise Him with stringed instruments.  
O praise, O praise the Lord on cymbals sounding strong.  
Let everything that hath breath praise Him, praise the Lord.  
Praise ye Him. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!*

**SERMON: THE LOST ART OF WAITING**

REV. JOHNSON

## LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

\* **CLOSING HYMN #101:** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

HAMBURG

\* **LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF CERTAINTY**

We want control and certainty in our life. We want to know that we are on the right paths, that we have the right answers, and that our waiting will bear fruit. We want to trust in our certainty.

***Lent is an invitation to acknowledge our illusions of certainty and to open ourselves to God's impossible grace, mercy, and love.***

As we extinguish this light, we let go of our certainty: the need for answers, for faith without doubt, and the desire to be self-reliant.

[A candle is extinguished.]

***Gracious God, forgive us for pretending that we have life figured out, that we don't need you, and that we could ever possess ultimate knowledge. Open our hearts to your gift of grace which enables us, in faith, to trust.***

***Amen.***

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *O God Our Help in Ages Past*

ARR. H. LIVINGSTON

\* *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](http://www.bethanypresbyterian.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.org](http://www.textweek.org))
- Other Lenten Resources
- Narrative Lectionary website ([www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org))

**SINGERS NEEDED!!** Our Lenten and Easter seasons will culminate on **Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** (the Sunday after Easter) as our choir presents Part II of Handel's *Messiah*. What a gift this will be for our church and community. If you would like to add your voice to this wonderful presentation, please see Chris.

Recently we marked the **Kickoff of our 125<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>** – **Rev. Norman Whitney**, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** ([www.davidlamotte.com](http://www.davidlamotte.com))
- **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** – 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  
Layla Benoklen

Diane Miller  
Jack Cook  
Polly & Dick Wilson  
Teresa Wilborn

John & Ann Sutton  
Peter Slater  
Joey Leake  
Shannon Russell

Ida Whitney  
Rachel Poteat  
Jeremy Harden  
Anne McDaniels  
Mike Sutton  
Ron Chilton  
Ben Johnson

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

Mary Moore  
Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Harold Baldwin  
Duffy Strigo  
Donna Mitchell-Ayers  
Gloria Carden Woods

**Presbyterian Women News:** Circle #1 will meet tomorrow, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the church. Circle #3 will also meet tomorrow, at 7:00 pm.

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](http://www.salempresbytery.org). On the prayer list for this week are: **Honorably Retired Ministers; Alamance, Greensboro; Grace, Winston-Salem.** 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.

Please disregard the announcement in the February newsletter, regarding the Lenten Lunch series. This series WILL NOT take place this season.

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

Elders of the Month for March are **Karen Maxwell and Brandon Troxler.**

**The Session** will meet for its regular March meeting on this **Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

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:

- SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>:

- 10:00 – Circle #1
- 7:00 – Circle #3

Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup>:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 21*

Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup>:

- THIRD 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 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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### Staff

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