



Bethany Presbyterian Church

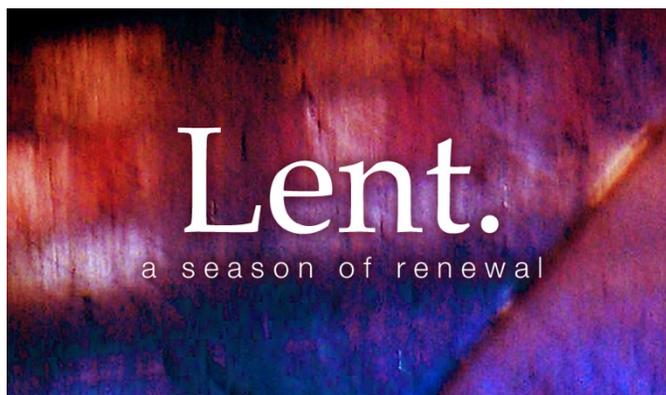
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 18, 2018 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent



"Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.
John 12:25-26 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Some famous people have made famous exits. Elvis left the building. Lou Gehrig said he was the luckiest man on earth and quit baseball. Jesus had more than one exit. He died, rose again and then ascended to heaven.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *O Lord, Whose Mercies Numberless*

G. F. HANDEL / ARR. R. HILFE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Love of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* **GATHERING SONG:** *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* (see page 4)

HOLY GROUND

* CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day God has promised: the day of the new covenant.

We are here, because our hearts are filled with love for our God.

No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is engraved on our hearts.

Our hearts are open so God's Word can shape us.

We will reach out to our neighbors, our friends and family, even to strangers.

Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God's people.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

The universe proclaims God's truth. God's knowledge flows night and day!
We open our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, our hearts to receive.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE: John 12:20-33

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1309

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

If we would see Jesus, we must open our eyes to the ways we have not followed him as disciples. If we want God to create new hearts within us, we must speak of the old ways in which we continue to live. If we seek God's mercy, we must confess all that keeps us from living as God's children. Join me, as we come to the One who will forgive us.

O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives, yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others, but become obsessed with our own desires. We need your Word to fill our emptiness, yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world. Our hearts are clogged with the foolishness of our lives, and often struggle to beat in rhythm with your own.

In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls, come to us and make us whole. Write grace upon our hearts, so we might be more forgiving people; write mercy on our hearts, so we might become more welcoming people; write hospitality upon our hearts that we might become more like Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who came for all people, even us.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.

Through Christ, we are cleansed; through Christ, we are healed; through Christ, we become new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #404:** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

*Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION AND SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

QUESTION OF COMMITMENT

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, those gathered as Bethany Presbyterian Church, promise to embrace Linda and Bill as fellow travelers, to welcome them into this family of faith with open arms, and to pray for them in this new endeavor?

We do.

PRAYER

WELCOME

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC

JENNIFER WELLS, SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Exit Lines*

Text: John 12:20-33

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1309

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE #148:** *At the Name of Jesus*

KING'S WESTON

* **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.

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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: JENNIFER WELLS, SOLOIST

* **THE DOXOLOGY:**

OLD HUNDRETH

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**

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #527:** *Near to the Heart of God*

MCAFFEE

* **LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF WEALTH**

We live in a world that tells us we never have enough. We are constantly seeking more: more money, bigger houses, newer cars, and the latest technology. Fearing scarcity, we hoard our possessions and store up our own treasures.

We worship money instead of God. When we let go of our wealth and acknowledge that it all belongs to God, we learn to trust and rely on God, who desires that all have enough.

As we extinguish this light, we let go of our wealth. We let go of our constant need for more, the illusion that possessions make us self-sufficient, and admit our need for God.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Creator God, remind us again that the world and all that is in it is yours. Teach us to relax our hold on possessions and to cling to you instead. Help us to use the gifts you've given us wisely, to share them generously, joyfully trusting in your abundance. Amen.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE: Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices**

J. SCRIVEYNER

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

GATHERING

406 We Are Standing on Holy Ground

Holy Ground

We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
and I know that there are an - gels all a -
round; let us praise Je - sus
now; we are stand - ing in his
pres - ence on ho - ly ground.



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 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.

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:

- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)

Our worship this morning ends with our **Lenten Candle Liturgy**. Just as we light a candle each Sunday during Advent, leading up to Christmas, here we extinguish a candle each Sunday, leading up to Easter. Each candle represents a “letting go” of something that is holding us back from living life to the fullest. This morning we let go of wealth.

We rejoice that our worship today includes the **Welcome of New Members**. Please extend a warm welcome to **Linda and Bill Abplanalp**, who come by Transfer of Letter from Shiloh Presbyterian of Burlington.

Please make note of our upcoming observances before and during Holy Week:

- **Saturday, March 24th, 11:30 am: Easter Egg Hunt** / open to community / location at Rec Building weather permitting
- **Sunday, March 25th: Passion/Palm Sunday** / Celebration and Dedication of the Palms
- **Thursday, March 29th: Maundy Thursday Communion Service** / Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper / stripping of the sanctuary with reading of Passion Psalm / extinguishing the last Lenten candle
- **Friday, March 30th, 12:00 noon: Good Friday Service** / Shiloh Presbyterian Church
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 1st: EASTER SUNDAY** / Announcement of the Resurrection / re-lighting of Christ candle / flowering of the cross outside to conclude service

Today is the **Fifth Sunday in Lent** and marks the continuation of our journey to the cross. We are also continuing our **Lenten Discipline Challenge**. The challenge is to place one thing from your closet or your home that you aren't using anymore in the trash bag each day, filling it up with 40 items by the end of Lent. You are then asked to donate these items to one of our local agencies. If you did not receive a bag and instructions last week, they are available in the narthex or from an usher.

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 Elder: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

We are currently asking for **donations of eyeglasses** (and reading glasses) that are no longer of use to use. These will be donated to Salem Presbytery's medical mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico in June. The basket for donations can be found on the table in the Welcome Center.

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Levi Byrd	Shelvia Russell
Celeste Bayliff Agner	Ruth Younts	Ruby Martin

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

The **Lenten Study Series “24 Hours That Changed the World”** continues each Wednesday during Lent, meeting at 6:00. New participants are always welcome.

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.

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: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for March are **Karen Maxwell** and **Sandy Cook**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 21st:

- 6:00 – “24 Hours That Changed the World” Lenten Study Series
- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Saturday, the 24th:

- 11:30 – Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, the 25th:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

bethany presbyterian

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

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



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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