



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

March 19, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

*Third Sunday in Lent*



*“All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ Jesus told them this parable.”*  
Luke 15:1-3a (CEB)

### GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

#### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Rejoicing Father, You celebrate when one of your lost children is found because no one is worthless to you. We stand humbled and in awe that you would count us among your most prized possessions. Give us eyes to see the priceless value of every living soul, for the sake of the one who became human for the sake of our souls, Jesus Christ our seeker. Amen.*

**PRELUDE:** *What Wondrous Love is This*

ARR. S. DOUGLAS

#### 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:** *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

*I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

***We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.***

Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

***No longer do we label our sisters and brothers, we welcome them with open arms.***

Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,  
***and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!***

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### \* HYMN OF PRAISE #367: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

CHREPONI

### AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

We know our faults -- the way we have treated others, our alienation from God, our unwillingness to be faithful people. We will not hide our sin or remain silent, but confess them to the One who surrounds us with steadfast love.

***Forgiving God, we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you. You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder, yet we would hide in places where temptation waits. You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse, because you also welcome those we call 'outsiders.' We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make, but hope you will ignore our foolish choices.***

Before we come to our senses, we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms, tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession, a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we find no limitations on your grace, no reservations about your love, but a feast that overflows with wonder, a place we can finally call home.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

***Broken, we are made whole; lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness. We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy. Amen.***

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

TRADITIONAL / HAL HOPSON

447

We Are Forgiven

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God." The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

**\* 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:** *Room at the Cross for You*

IRA STANPHILL / 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 #298:** *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*

IN BABILONE

**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 15:1-32

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

***Thanks be to God!***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1271

### THE WORD IN MUSIC: *How Excellent is Your Name*

*Jesus, Jesus, How excellent is Your name.*

*At Your name every knee shall bow;*

*At Your name every tongue shall confess.*

*At Your name all heaven rejoices.*

*How excellent is Your name.*

*Jesus, Jesus, How excellent is Your name.*

V. MCKAY / ARR. J. JOUBERT

### SERMON: *LOST AND FOUND*

REV. JOHNSON

## LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

\* **CLOSING HYMN #356:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

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

Misery comes in many forms: misery over a past wound; misery of a dead-end job or no job; misery over a relationship; misery because of an illness of mind, body, or spirit; misery from grief, anxiety, or sadness.

***Often this misery is no fault of our own. Yet this sadness holds us back, prevents us from moving forward or living into the abundance God desires for us. We are called to let go of our misery and embrace the living waters that only Christ can offer.***

As we extinguish this candle, we let go of our misery. We lay down our despair and sadness and embrace a new future found only in relationship with Christ.

[A candle is extinguished.]

***God of hope and joy, help us to remember the promise that you are with us always. As we continue our journey towards the cross, remind us of your presence, and help our hearts to find rest in you. Amen.***

\* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *More About Jesus*

J. SWENEY / ARR. J. JONES

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\* *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:

- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.org](http://www.textweek.org))
- *Call to Worship* resource (PCUSA publication)
- 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.

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 misery.

On the last Sunday in January 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	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	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Ron Chilton	Norman Mize	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Ben Johnson	Gail Sloane (friend of Joy Saleeby)	Gloria Carden Woods

**Presbyterian Women News:** Circle #3 will meet tomorrow, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the church.

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: **Westminster Presbyterian, Greensboro; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Campus Ministry – Appalachian State University; Sandy Ridge Presbyterian; Milton Presbyterian.** 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.

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

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

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.

Please take a moment to **check out our newly redesigned and updated website.** Note also the change in the domain name. Our new website can be found at [www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org).

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Circle #3

Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 22*

Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup>:

- FOURTH 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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