



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 22, 2020 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday in Lent



“But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light. Everything that is revealed by the light is light. Therefore, it says, Wake up, sleeper! Get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”
Ephesians 5:13-14 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Good morning, Lord. The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight, and I awaken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray, shepherding me through all that the day will hold. Lead me into pleasant places, and give me the provisions I will need if I find myself in difficulty or danger. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation I begin this day. Amen.” - Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A

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.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord Christ, open our eyes

to see clearly the light of the world.

Holy Spirit, illumine our minds

to perceive God’s glory shining among us.

Almighty God, prepare our hearts

to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

God calls us to bear fruit of goodness, justice, and truth. We know what is pleasing to the Lord, but we still live in sin's shadow. Let us strive to live as children of light, and tell the truth about the ways we have fallen short.

Wonder-working God, forgive us when preconceived notions cloud our vision and blind us to your activity in our lives. We watch for signs of your glory in the successful and strong, in pious acts and answered prayers, in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled.

But you make yourself known in unexpected ways: in shepherd boys lifted to the throne and outcasts returned to community; in death-haunted valleys transformed by your presence, and ordinary pools made extraordinary by your grace, through water and mud, and a table prepared with sacrificial love.

We long for a salve that relieves our stubborn focus on inconsequential questions, and for water that heals our blindness to revelations of your love. Open our eyes, illumine our minds, and prepare our hearts, to receive your amazing grace.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God, our Shepherd, leads us to restful waters and restores our souls. Indeed, goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967 (PCUSA BOOK OF CONFESSIONS)

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.

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Kyrie*

GIROLAMO FRESCOBALDI

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Wake Up, Sleeper!*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* SENDING

Arise! Shine!

For the light of Christ is upon us.

Go into the world.

We go bearing the fruit of Christ's light, so that all might see what is good and right and true;

Go, and live as children of the light, to the glory of God.

We go peaceably, looking into the hearts of others.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



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. A **Video Recording** of our Zoom worship will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources
- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)

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
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Katherine Bayliff

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Family of Foy Bayliff

Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley
Family of Harry Smith

Glenn Thompson
Carol Brooks
Lou Crutchfield

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 during Lent at 7:00 via a Zoom meeting. Call John to get the link.

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**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 23rd:

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

Wednesday, the 25th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 29th:

- **Fifth 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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