



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 25, 2018 – 11:00 am

Palm / Passion Sunday



“Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. Those in front of him and those following were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!’”
Mark 11:8-10 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We’re in the middle of March Madness, the annual NCAA tournament which leads to the crowning of a champion. This event gives us an opportunity to consider the madness of an ancient crowd as they hailed the person they believed to be their champion and hero.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Behold the King!*

L. SMITH

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:** *Filled With Excitement* (see page 5)

HOSANNA

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.
We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.
Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

* **OPENING HYMN #88:** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

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: Mark 11:1-11

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1231

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

We love parades! We love the excitement, the colors, the noise! Today we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. His followers have stripped branches from the trees and wave them in the air. They have thrown their cloaks in the path of the donkey that his steps might be cushioned. And the scene is wonderful.
But there is a reality here. The reality is that although we wave our branches and shout "Hosanna!", we have not always behaved as disciples. Too often we have wandered from the path of Christ and stumbled along on our own, believing our way to be superior. We have turned from those who have needed help, because it wasn't convenient for us to be of help of service. We have done and said things that are not worthy of disciples.
Yet, here we stand, in the parade route, waving our branches. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to turn our lives around and truly serve you. Help us to really mean "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us. This is the good news, my friends: God's steadfast love endures forever.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

TRADITIONAL

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)
Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

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

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Lift Up Your Heads*

E. L. ASHFORD

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates.
And be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors
And the King of Glory shall come in.
The King of glory shall come in.
Who is the King of glory? The Lord, the Lord strong and mighty.
Who is the King of glory? The Lord, the Lord strong and mighty.
The Lord mighty in battle.*

He is the King. (He is the King of glory)
He is the King. (He is the King of glory)
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle,
He is the king, the king of glory.
Lift your heads eternal gates. Lift your heads eternal gates.
Be ye also lifted up ye everlasting doors.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates.
Even lift them up, ye everlasting doors
And the King of Glory shall come in.
The King of glory shall come in.
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of host! The Lord of host!
He is the King. (He is the King of glory)
He is the King. (He is the King of glory)
ALL HAIL!

Congregation join in:

All Hail the Power of Jesus' name let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Jerusalem March Madness***

Text: Mark 11:1-11

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1231

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE #88:** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

* **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: *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

*** THE DOXOLOGY:**

*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. SMITH

OLD HUNDRETH

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

*** DEDICATION OF THE PALMS**

"Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields." (Mark 11:8)

Our Lord enters Jerusalem one final time. The crowds were joyous and shouted "Hosanna"!

We wave our palm branches to remember this celebration and to shout our Hosannas!

But our joy quickly turns to grief, as we remember the passion with the palms.

(During our closing hymn, you are invited to bring your palm branches forward and place them on the communion table. These branches will be saved and will be burned so that the ashes can be used at next year's Ash Wednesday Service.)

*** CLOSING HYMN #276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

FAITHFULNESS

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

Faith enables us to let go and to live out of control. When we learn to depend on God, we learn how to let go of control.

Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week were not what the people hoped for or imagined when they dreamed of a Messiah.

Christ is doing a new thing among us, so lay down your cloaks, shout hosanna, and risk following Christ all the way to the cross. As we extinguish this light, we let go of control. We let go of our assumptions, our own plans, our hopes, so that we can see Christ in our midst, transforming the world.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Holy One, as we enter the coming days of darkness, remind us that you are the one who calls new life out of death, light out of darkness. Give us the strength to follow you to the cross. Amen.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna***

L. SMITH

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Mantos y palmas

1 Filled with ex-cite-ment, all the hap-py throng spread cloaks and
 2 As in that en-trance to Je-ru-sa-lem, ho-san-nas
 1 Man-tos y pal-mas es-par-cien-do va el pue-blo a-
 2 Co-mo en la en-tra-da de Je-ru-sa-lén, to-dos can-



branch-es on the cit-y streets. There in the dis-tance they be-
 we will sing to Je-sus Christ, to our Re-deem-er who still
 le-gre de Je-ru-sa-lén. A-llá a lo le-jos se vis-
 ta-mos a Je-sús el rey, al Cris-to vi-vo que nos



gin to see, there on a don-key comes the Sav-ior Christ.
 calls to-day, asks us to fol-low with our love and faith.
 lum-bra ya en un po-lli-no al Sal-va-dor Je-sús.
 lla-ma hoy pa-ra se-guir-le con a-mor y fe.

Refrain / Estribillo



From ev-ery cor-ner a thou-sand voic-es sing praise to the One who comes
 Mien-tras mil vo-ces re-sue-nan por do-quier; ho-sa-na al que vie-ne en el



in the name of God. Our ac-cla-ma-tion breaks forth in shouts of
 nom-bre de Dios. Con un a-lien-to de gran ex-cla-ma-



praise, our tri-um-phant song of joy: "Ho-san-na,
 ción y pro-rrum-pen con voz triun-fal: "¡Ho-sa-na!



ho-san-na to Christ! Ho-san-na, ho-san-na to Christ!"
 ¡Ho-sa-na al rey!" "¡Ho-sa-na! ¡Ho-sa-na al rey!"



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)
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticsonline.com)

You should have received a palm upon entering the sanctuary this morning, in our observance and celebration of **Palm Sunday**. Please join in waving your palms during our Gathering Hymn. Also, please note the **Dedication of the Palms** at the end of the service. You may bring your palms to the communion table during the final hymn. They will be kept and burned, so the ashes may be used for next year’s Ash Wednesday service.

As has been the case throughout Lent, 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 control.

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

- **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

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	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Celeste Bayliff Agner	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin		Diane Bullis

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

The **Lenten Study Series “24 Hours That Changed the World”** will conclude this Wednesday, meeting at 6:00.

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:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / with Dedication of the Palms

Wednesday, the 28th:

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

Thursday, the 29th:

- 7:00 – Maundy Thursday Communion Worship

Friday, the 30th:

- 12:00 – Good Friday Service, Shiloh Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, THE 1ST:

- **EASTER SUNDAY / CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION!**
- 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

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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