



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 29, 2020 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent



*"If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you,
the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also,
through his Spirit that lives in you."*

Romans 8:11 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"O God, I know that you are the Lord, for you gave me my life, and caused me to rise this day. Put your Spirit within me, and let my words and actions help others to know that you are my Lord and my God. 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

In silent sanctuaries, in our homes or apartments, wherever we are in these moments of worship, early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.

During these days of isolation and worry, in this time of uncertainty and fear, Jesus challenges us with the possibility of faith.

Even in these times of safe distancing and caring for others, as well as ourselves, we can offer healing and hope to others.

In the shadowed evenings when fear lurks outside, and we long to hear the lullabies of grace, the Spirit is with us.

The Light of life shines on us from early morning until we say our prayers, comforting us in the shadows of sleep.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 8:6-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

One thing we know: you are the One who journeys with us in these days of confusion, and who waits for us at our final destination.

One thing we know: when we find ourselves in valleys veiled in shadows, you are walking alongside us even though we may never notice.

One thing we know: when we are weakened by the burdens of our lives, when fears disrupt our lives, you come to us, to rest your strengthening peace upon us.

One thing we know, God in Community, Holy in One: once we could not see you in every moment, but now our eyes are opened wide, and so, we pray together, yet apart, yet together.

In these days, when we have more time to be worried and fearful, God longs for us to sit by the still waters of love. But our isolation confuses us, our loneliness heightens our doubts, our doubts seem to lessen our ability to be children of God.

Like those who are lost and lonely, we sit in the ashes of our hopes, but you see us as your beloved children. We pay strict attention to all who hoard but ignore the opportunities we have to share with others. When we think you are as limited in being able to move and act and live as we are, you continue to burst forth to bring hope and newness into the world.

Have mercy on us, God of forgiveness, and open our eyes to your presence among us. As you look at our hearts, may we see others in a different way, not as enemies or strangers, but sisters and brothers of the same family, kin to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The Spirit of the Lord has come upon us, bringing hope, life, and forgiveness for each person.

Now we will go forth as God's children, sent to bring the good news to everyone we meet. 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

* 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: *New Life in the Spirit*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **SENDING**

Now go to take the love of God into the world.

We will show others the way to God's fields of grace.

Now go to take the grace of Jesus into the world.

We will seek to bring others to the still waters of peace.

Now go to take the community of the Spirit into the world.

We will work to restore the lives of all whom we meet.

* **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).

Obviously, due to the ongoing health crisis surrounding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, we are not worshipping in person at this point in time, but rather gathering virtually using the Zoom meeting platform. Each week the congregation will be emailed a link by which everyone can join the meeting using their computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet. John will lead worship in this manner, and congregants are invited to participate as they are able. For those who are unable to connect via Zoom, we are also hoping to be on Facebook Live as well. We are still trying to work out some glitches in that.

For those unable to get the link via email, it will also be on our Facebook page, and on our website.

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 Willborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton

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

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard

Norma Proctor
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley
Family of Harry Smith

Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Glenn Thompson
Carol Brooks
Lou Crutchfield

Shelvia Russell
Family of Foy Bayliff
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.

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:

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

Monday, the 30th:

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

Sunday, the 5th:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 - Worship on Zoom

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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