



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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March 31, 2024 – 11:00 am

*Easter Day*



"." Carol Lara

But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Mark 16:6-8 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, Summer: Liturgical resources for May, June and July including Eastertide and Pentecost, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2020); and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

#### PRELUDE: *Low in the Grave*

(Based on the tune "Christ Arose," by Robert Lowry, and quoting a fragment of "Easter Hymn" from Lyra Davidica)

LANI SMITH

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*OPENING SENTENCES

"SHARE THE MYSTERY & WONDER," SCOTT CERVAS

The sun had just risen from behind the horizon...  
the world was quiet, but for the chirping birds and buzzing insects...

the three women walked slowly to the tomb  
only to quickly leave with shocking news they never expected to receive:

*Jesus is risen!*  
***He is risen, indeed!***

Let's share in the mystery and wonder of those words...  
let's allow our hearts to ponder and our minds to reflect...  
and let's celebrate the glory of God, together!

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #113: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today***

CHARLES WESLEY

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!  
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!  
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Him rise; Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Jesus died, our souls to save; Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to You by both be given; Alleluia!  
Every knee to You shall bow, Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

**\*LITANY OF PRAISE**

"LET US SAY THAT AGAIN," RODDY HAMILTON, "SPILL THE BEANS"

"Living God!"  
Let us say that again:  
***"Living God!"***

May the life you have redeemed  
from death  
be alive in us,  
***that in our living and being  
we proclaim  
a life that never dies –  
and is so full of alleluias  
of the love of justice  
and the making of peace,  
it can never die.***

May we find a million ways  
to proclaim you are live:  
***in word and deed,  
in hope and action,  
in longing and being,  
in singing and speaking,  
in laughter and care,  
in questions and wonder  
in faith and belief.***

May we be your resurrection people,  
alive to life  
and ready to share it  
with the world.

***Hear us,  
live in us,  
reshare us,  
call us  
anew  
and again  
into life  
and all its fullness.  
So be it.***

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"HEARTS BURN," NATHAN WILLIAMS

Risen Christ,  
you opened the scriptures to your disciples  
and made their hearts burn within them.  
Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts,  
so we might recognize you once again  
in these words of scripture,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 119:21-27**

PEW BIBLE, 759-760

**MARK 16:1-8**

PEW BIBLE, 1241

The Word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

## AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

### OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY #593:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

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. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

**\*BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #122:** *Thine is the Glory*

EDMOND LOIS BUDRY

Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes  
Where Thy body lay.

Lo! Jesus meets us,  
Risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly He greets us,  
Scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness  
Hymns of triumph sing,  
For the Lord now liveth;  
Death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee,  
Glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without Thee;  
Aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors  
Through Thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
To Thy home above.

Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"EASTER CONFESSION," TERI PETERSON

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

*We come running, looking for you, Risen Christ,  
but you are not where we expect you to be.  
As always, you are to be found among the living –  
those living at the edge, those living with uncertainty,  
those living in ways we cannot imagine and may not approve.  
We come running, our hands full of things and our minds full of self-reliance,  
only to find that you have been here already,  
you have rolled away the stone and called us to trust your word.*

If this good news is true, it means everything is different now.  
We confess that our excitement is a bit nervous –  
it's hard for us not to be in control.

*Today as we peer once again into your empty tomb,  
remind us of all you have told us, and then guide our feet to follow.  
Fill the empty tombs of our hearts with your love that cannot be contained.  
Breathe new life into us, into your church, into your world,  
and overcome our fear of change so that we too may be found among the living.  
Turn our expectations upside down,  
and lead us into the new and different world you are creating, even now, even here. Amen.*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our risen Lord that:  
You are enough.  
You are forgiven.  
You are loved.  
***Alleluia! Thanks be to God!***

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *He is Lord*

He is Lord. He is Lord.  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *We Shall Behold Him*

DOTTI RAMBO/ARR. BY CAMP KIRKLAND

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"To Be Continued..."*

REV. PHILLIPS

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.*

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

...Christ our risen Lord is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.  
*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord your God.  
*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

It is truly right and our greatest joy...  
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

You are holy, O God of majesty...  
...For great is the mystery of faith:  
*Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

"FOR THE LEAST OF THESE," NATHAN WILLIAMS

### 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.*

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #114:** *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

While we sing, *we will process out to the lawn for our flowering of the cross and a time of fellowship.  
Happy Easter!*

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
Of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel  
Into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
Led them, with unmoistened foot,  
Through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today;  
Christ has burst His prison,  
And from three days' sleep in death  
As a sun hath risen.  
Now rejoice, Jerusalem,  
And with true affection  
Welcome in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection!

**\*SENDING AROUND THE CROSS**

ADAPTED FROM "WE GO TO THE TOMB," ANDY JAMES AND TERI PETERSON

We go to your tomb, O Christ,  
expecting to be met by the cold harshness of stone,  
sealing the death of hope.  
Instead, we find that the stone has been rolled away  
and you are not there!  
May we encounter your risen presence everywhere we go  
and live in the joy of Eastern morn each and every day.  
***Alleluia! Amen.***

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Sundays, 9:45am Bible 101 Part 2: The New Testament – Evie C. Marshall Room**

We're back this Sunday! With a brand New Testament! Join Jon and friends as we continue our Bible 101 survey of the Biblical text, focusing on how it is interpreted, its context, and its content.

**Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 11am Easter Sunday - Sanctuary**

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 9am Spring Yard Cleanup Day**

Please join us as we gather to clean the yards and add mulch to the flowers beds of the church and the Manse to help tidy up these areas for Spring.

**All Day Throughout Lent – Stations of the Cross – Recreation Area**

The Stations of the Cross have been a part of the Lenten journey of Christians to express their faith in a multisensory way for centuries. You are invited to participate in this ancient tradition of remembering Christ's death by walking an ecumenical version in our Recreation Area this Lenten season.

**Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Alamance Co. Mobile Library**

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30. Please stop by and “check-out” this wonderful service the library has to share

## **This Week's Calendar:**

Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>      Easter Sunday & Communion  
9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament    Evie C. Marshall classroom  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> - Church Office Closed

Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
6:30 – Choir Practice

Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00am Spring Cleanup Day

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>      Second Sunday of Easter – Pennies for Hunger  
9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament    Evie C. Marshall classroom  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

### Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

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### Staff

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