



Bethany Presbyterian Church

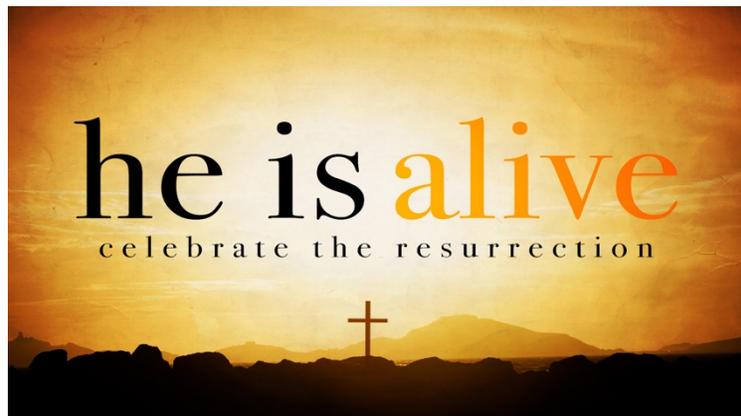
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 1, 2018 – 11:00 am

Easter Sunday



“He said, ‘Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see him there, exactly as he said.’”

Mark 16:6-7 (The Message)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The women bring spices to anoint the body of their slain leader. Instead, they are told, “He has risen,” and gone on to Galilee as foretold. God has rolled back the stone, the covering cast over all peoples, the veil spread over all nations. Death is swallowed up forever. Henceforth there shall be gladness and rejoicing. Christ reigns eternally, so that all may have life.

TRINITY CHIMES

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESURRECTION

*Today we celebrate!
Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed.
And because He is risen . . . we have good news.
The kingdom of God is here.
We have a new covenant.
Sin no longer binds us.
Our debts have been paid.
Sins are forgiven.
Abundant life is ours.
Death is no longer the end.
Faith is in full bloom.
Hope lives.*

Love surrounds us.
Spring is at our doorstep.
Peace is real.
We will sing praises!
He is on the throne.
“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Following the Easter Sunday introduction video, *The Cross, veiled in black at the Maundy Thursday Communion Service with the reading of the Passion Psalm, is now unveiled, and the Christ Candle is re-lit, symbolizing the resurrection and new life in Christ. And the congregation responds:*

The Lord is Risen!
The Lord is Risen indeed!

PRELUDE: *Fanfare for Easter*

H. BALCOMBE

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:** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* (see page 5)

DONALD FISHEL

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day:

when tears are wiped away; shattered hearts are mended; fears are replaced with joy.

This is the day the Lord:

rolls away the stone of fear; throws off death's clothes; goes ahead of us into God's future.

This is the day the Lord has made:

death has no fear for us; sin has lost its power over us; God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.

This is the day - Easter Day!

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

* **OPENING HYMN #123:** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

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 16:1-8

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1241

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Very early in the morning, God created all that is good and beautiful. Very early in the morning, a mother placed her newborn in a manger. Very early in the morning, the good news was shared with frightened friends, that Jesus was risen and alive in our midst. Let us confess the fears and the amazement we bring this morning.

On this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are. We haven't done any great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance. We have not intentionally hurt anyone, nor have we offered healing to the broken. We easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends and neighbors.

Bring us new life, Dazzling God. Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us of all the damage we have done, and fill us with the joy of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, who gives us new life, we pray.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God, our Creator, gives us new life; Christ. This is the good news: the tomb is empty, sin is powerless, death is defeated forever.

On this very first day, and every day, we walk as God's people, forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to 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

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *He Gave the Greatest Gift of All*

JON AND JANE SHERBERT

*The winter's chill crept o'er the stillness of the evening;
The day had past at last the city slept in peace.
An evening star watched from afar and shone so brightly,
As if to say this day would bring a love that would not cease.*

*In days of old it was foretold a time was coming
When wondrous things would bring a new and glorious day;
When God the Father would now offer life unending,
To those who came to claim the Gift in childlike faith.*

*He gave the greatest Gift of all when He gave Jesus
He sent the greatest Gift of love wrapped in His Son.
He brought us hope when we had nothing left to hope for
Redemption's story had begun*

*He gave the greatest Gift of all when He gave Jesus
He sent the greatest Gift of love wrapped in His Son.
He brought us hope when we had nothing left to hope for
At last the long awaited promise,
The Gift the world was waiting for had come.*

*The sky was gray, the clouds turned daylight into darkness
As if the earth itself were mourning for a Son.
A mother's heart was torn apart in grief and anguish;
The day she saw so long ago had finally come.*

*He stood accused, His body bruised, hands pierced and bleeding;
Who once had known the lowly comfort of a stall.
The babe that angels once proclaimed as King and Saviour
Gave up His life to be the greatest Gift of all.*

*At last the Gift the world was waiting for had come.
He gave the greatest Gift of all!*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The April Fool***

Text: Mark 16:1-8

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1241

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE #122:** *Thine Is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

* **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: *How Great Thou Art*

BAGLEY (INSPIRED BY KARTSONOKIS)

* **A DOXOLOGY:**

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **EASTER HYMN #495:** *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

ENGELBERG

* **RECESSIONAL VOLUNTARY:** *Alleluia, Christ is Risen*

F. RITTER

[Please follow the pastor and choir as we recess to the side lawn for the Flowering of the Cross.]

* **RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR EASTER**

Lord Jesus, here are your disciples – your wounded hands and feet in the world today are ours.

At times we have been the frightened ones, staying at a distance, worried about our safety or our reputations. But you come close to us, bringing peace and challenge, unlocking our potential and setting us free.

At times we have been the doubting ones, when creeds conflict or certainty has evaded us. But you come close and allow us to speak our minds, accepting us, and setting us free.

At times we have been the confused ones, feeling far from you with questions that don't have answers. So, on this day of resurrection, we listen for your voice.

The risen Christ says to us: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."

Through our fear, through our doubt, through our confusion may we continue Jesus' work, as we travel many roads, liberated and united by the love of the resurrected one. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN: Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!**

HYMN TO JOY

*Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
 Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
 In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
 Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
 Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
 Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend!
 Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
 Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
 Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!*

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Descant

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line includes lyrics and is marked with 'Descant', 'Refrain', and 'Fine'. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name. 1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth. 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth: 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ. 4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God, He is the King of cre - a - tion. Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Now we shall live for - ev - er. joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.'

Refrain
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -
Fine
 al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

B to Refrain



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:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticsonline.com)

Our Easter Sunday celebration will conclude this morning on the side lawn at the end of the service, with the **Flowering of the Cross**. If you did not bring a flower with you, there are baskets available at the door. Please follow the pastor and the choir to the side lawn at the end of the Easter Hymn at the end of the service. Bring your bulletins so that you can participate in the Easter Prayer and our closing hymn.

Please make note that our Easter observance continues on **next Sunday, April 8th**, as our choir and musicians will present Robert Ray’s **Gospel Mass**. This will take place as part of our regular morning worship at 11:00.

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)

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 April are **Ron Osborne** and **Brandon Troxler**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **EASTER SUNDAY / CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / with Flowering of the Cross

Monday, the 2nd:

- 7:00 – Circle #1

Wednesday, the 4th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 8th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / choir presentation **Gospel Mass**

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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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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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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