



Bethany Presbyterian Church

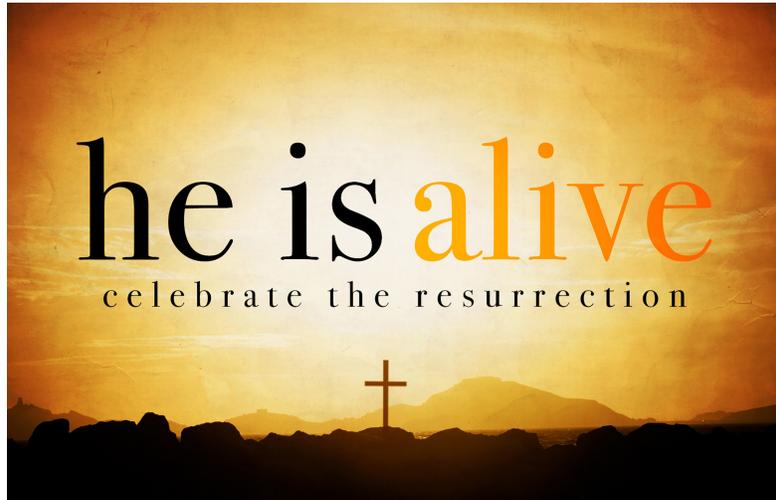
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 4, 2021 – 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

*What if the stories are true
That Jesus is alive
That salvation is a free gift
Imagine a God who deeply loves you
Who regards your every moment
And wants to spend eternity with you
What if miracles can happen
What if freedom is within grasp
Imagine you never have to be alone
And this life is just the beginning
What if your story
Has all be leading to this moment
For those seeking answers
There is good news*

*Jesus is alive
Salvation is a free gift
God deeply loves you
And He regards your every moment
Miracles happen
Freedom is within your grasp
You never have to be alone
And this life is just the beginning
All of this is true
All of this applies to you
Simply answer His call
And believe*

Following the Easter Sunday introduction video, The Cross, veiled in black at the Maundy Thursday Communion Service 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: *Jesus Has Risen as He Said*

GERALD PETERSON

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 a socially-distanced peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* **GATHERING SONG #118:** *The Day of Resurrection!*

LANCASHIRE

*The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.
Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
And, listening to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.
Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.*

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God is good!

All the time!

And all the time!

God is good!

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. Let all the people proclaim, "God's steadfast love endures forever!"

God's steadfast love endures forever!

The Lord is my strength, my song, and my salvation! Shouts of joy resound in the tents of the righteous!

God's steadfast love endures forever!

The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

We will not die but live. We will proclaim what the Lord has done.

We enter the gates of the Lord and give thanks, for this is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day - Easter Day!
Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

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

EASTER HYMN

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MARK 16:1-8

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1241

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Christ the Lord is Risen today! Alleluia! Our hopes and dreams have come true. We do not have to fear death, for Christ goes before us. Praise be to God who has raised Christ from the dead and given to us new life.

Open our hearts to receive your wondrous words of love, O God. Help prepare us for the opportunities to serve you by serving others.

We have to admit it, Lord, that we had our doubts. We have heard the Resurrection story and for so many years it has remained just a nice story. But this time it is different. This time we have walked the path with Christ. We have journeyed through the wilderness and valleys, to the mountaintops, to the courtyard, the garden and the cross.

Now you bring us to the empty tomb and to the joyous news of the truth of Christ. Forgive us when we so easily doubt the truth of his resurrection. Forgive us when we feel we have to have absolute proof of everything. Your love in Jesus Christ is all the proof we need. You conquered death and sin, you brought us to new life. We praise your holy name and sing our unending song of hope and thanksgiving. Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!

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.

* **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PAUL VASILE

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*** SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

EXCERPTED FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

As the people of God gathered in these places, 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 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

*** 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**

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

JUDAS MACCABEUS

*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 nought 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.

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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Jesus Purchased My Salvation*

ROBERT FRYSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Stone-Rolling and Doom-Scrolling***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

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

ENGELBERG

*We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death He broke its fearful hold;
And our despair He turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!*

*We share by water in His saving death. Reborn we share with Him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!*

*The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!*

*A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia! Amen.*

* **RECESSIONAL VOLUNTARY:** *Everlasting Victory*

HUMPHREY TURNER

[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 BENEDICTION**

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



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.**

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 and our YouTube Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* Commentary
- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *Presbyterian Outlook* Liturgical Resources
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

We rejoice that we can now worship together in our beautiful sanctuary! Here are some guidelines to follow to ensure the health and safety of our congregation:

- **Masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please do not sit in any pews that have been blocked off. This is to make sure that social-distancing guidelines are being followed.
- Bulletins are available at the doors. They will not be distributed but you may pick one up as you wish.
- The offering will not be collected but offering plates are available in the narthex. You may place your offering in the plates on your way out, or you may follow the QR code below to give online.
- Please refrain from physical interaction during our “meet and greet” time. Waves and virtual hugs are our new normal - at least for awhile!
- Although we normally encourage singing hymns with gusto, that might not be the wisest thing to do right now. Either sing softly through your mask, or hum.
- John will be at the door to greet following the service, but will not shake hands or hug . . . just an elbow bump and the knowledge that he’s smiling beneath the mask!

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
Shannon Russell
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Ida Whitney
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton

Alex Thomas
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Janie Holt Clapp

Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Penny Rice (sister of Carolyn Thompson)

Ritchie Fishburne
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

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.

We are looking forward to a new **Spring Bible Study**, welcoming back our guest leader and teacher **Dr. Donald Griggs** who recently led our wonderful study of the Gospel of Luke. Don has offered to continue with another study, looking at the book of Acts. Join us virtually on Zoom, and in person, as we begin this 7-week course on **Monday, April 12th**. We have ordered study books (only 9 were available on Amazon) and participants may pick one up in the church office. They are \$14.00 each. The Kindle version of the book is available on Amazon for \$8.00. Please sign up by calling the church office, or by registering using the form on our website.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for April are **Randy Cousins** and **Tina Patterson**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 7th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 11th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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Staff

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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