



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 15, 2018 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Easter



“On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey.”

Luke 24:13-15 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We rejoice that there are certain churches that prefer the word “guest” to “visitor,” because the term “visitor” implies that they’re not here to stay. The term “guest” implies that this is someone for whom you do everything you can to make them feel comfortable.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

TRADITIONAL

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.)

*** GATHERING SONG:** *Jesus, We Are Here*

Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here; we are here for you.

Savior . . . Teacher . . . Spirit . . .

JESUS, TAWA PANO

* CALL TO WORSHIP

As you walk with us, as we journey together,

Lord, your word fills our hearts!

As you speak with us, as your love is revealed,
Lord, your fire burns in our hearts!
As we proclaim what we have seen and heard,
may all people be drawn to you, the risen Lord!

* **OPENING HYMN #108:** *Christ Is Alive!*

TRURO

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: LUKE 24:13-35

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1287

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Loving God, come and speak to our hearts today. May we, like those on the Emmaus Road, find your words burning with hope in our lives. Strengthen us and give us courage for the journey ahead. Let us confess our shortcomings as we strive to be Easter people.

Lord, you are so patient with us. You brought us through Easter when we rejoiced at the news of the resurrection of your Son our Savior. You were with us in the upper room when we remained hidden out of our fears, sharing with Thomas our doubts and anxieties. Now you come to us on the road. You come to us in our everyday lives, moving out of this pristine setting of worship into the work world.

But we aren't always ready for you and don't always see you or feel your presence. We let so many things crowd in on our lives and these intrusions blot out our awareness of your presence. Forgive our blindness and our stubbornness. Help us keep our hearts open to you, to see and tell the good things you have done in our lives.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Even though we have not seen Jesus, one to one, we have assurance of his presence and his love with us. The promises of God are always true.

God is with us, in the resurrection of Jesus, in our journeys, in our lives. Praise be to God. Amen.

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

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)

TRADITIONAL

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

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 confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Now I Belong to Jesus*

N. CLAYTON
BEACH SPRING

*** A DOXOLOGY:**

*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 #339:** *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

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

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

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

KEITH AND KAREN GETTY / ARR. D. WILLIAMSON

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me hold wounds which tell me "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won.
Beneath the cross of Jesus His family is my own;
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams, now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor the ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus see the children called by God.
Upon the cross of Jesus my eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess:
The wonder of His glorious love and my unworthiness.
Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Jesus, the Stranger, Guest, and Host*

Text: Luke 24:13-35

REV. JOHNSON
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1287

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** HYMN OF RESPONSE #482:** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Thine is the Glory*

B. GLYNCANNON / G. F. HANDEL

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



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 guest 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 **Debbie Johnson**. 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:

- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

John will be leaving on Thursday of this week attending a family wedding in Alabama. In John’s absence next Sunday, we welcome to the pulpit **Rev. Katie Todd**. Katie is currently serving as campus minister of UKirk in Greensboro. John will return to the office on the 23rd.

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.

ATTENTION NON-COMPUTER USERS: We realize that there are some in our congregation who do not use computers, and thus miss out on emails and other correspondence regarding prayer requests and other information. If you will let Joy know in the office, she will put you on a list to call whenever one of these emails goes out. The office number is 336.227.4041.

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	Family of Celeste Bayliff Agner	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin		Diane Bullis

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

This Tuesday, April 17th, will mark the beginning of our new **Spring Book Study**, as we look at author and activist **Shane Claiborne's** signature work ***Jesus for President***. Please register (no later than today) by either filling out the insert in today's bulletin, or through our website. You may either purchase your own book on Amazon, or the church can order one for you. The price is currently around \$11.50 for the paperback. Kindle versions are also available.

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:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Tuesday, the 17th:

- 7:00 – Spring Book Study, *Jesus for President*

Wednesday, the 18th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Thursday, the 19th:

- 6:00 – Men of the Church Dinner & Meeting

Sunday, the 22nd:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / guest preacher Rev. Katie Todd

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

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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