



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypresbyterian.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 16, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday



"The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here, but has been raised.'"

Luke 24:5-6 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Risen Messiah, Hallelujah! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Glory be to you, whom death could not defeat. Praise to the savior of heaven and earth. Honor and glory are yours, now and forever, Christ our savior and redeemer. Amen.

TRINITY CHIMES

* ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESURRECTION

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: *Welcome, Happy Morning*

J. SCRIVEYNER

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 #119:** *The Strife Is O'er*

VICTORY

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day

hope tiptoes us awake; light guides us through the shadows.

This is the day the Lord

plants joy in our winter hearts; drowns out despair's cries with laughter.

This is the day the Lord has made

the day grace does cartwheels in graveyards; resurrection wonder outshines the brightest sun; an empty tomb fills us with good news.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* **HYMN OF PRAISE #123:** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Each morning, we put on those comfortable garments of burdens and worries, but now they are gone!

Each day, we walk through life, our good and faithful friend, death, at our side, constantly whispering in our ears, but now he has disappeared!

Each evening, empty our fears out of our pockets, leaving them on top of the dresser, but now, they have been taken away!

We could continue to live in the same old ways, the same old days, but now, resurrection life is ours, and we can sing, dance, and rejoice with you.

We are Easter people, yet we also know how often we live in the shadows, afraid to follow the light. We wander in the gardens of the world, looking for you, never noticing you at our side. Let us confess how we have failed to be God's people, as we pray together, saying,

Too often, we believe our foolishness is hidden from you; too often, we stand before the open door of hope, wondering if we dare enter. Uncertain of the good news offered to us, we would rather return to the comfort of our familiar ways rather than trusting in you.

Yet you come, as persistent as Mary at the tomb, to open the gates of hope, so we might walk in the gardens of hope;

You come, to open the gates of grace, so we might plant peace in the wilderness of the world; you come, to open the gates of resurrection, so we might know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

We will sing and dance on this day! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. 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)

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 almighty?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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 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.

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #108:** *Christ Is Alive!*

TRURO

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

R. THYGERSON (BASED ON DIVIDICA)

* **THE DOXOLOGY (WITH ALLELUIAS)**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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: *We Shall Behold Him*

D. RAMBO / P. FERRIN

The sky shall unfold preparing His entrance.

The stars will applaud Him with thunders of praise.

The sweet light in His eyes shall enhance those awaiting.

And we shall behold Him then face to face.

We shall behold Him. We shall behold Him

Face to face in all of His glory.

We shall behold Him. We shall behold Him

Face to face, our Savior and Lord.

The angel shall sound the shout of His coming.

The sleeping will rise from their slumbering place.

And those who remain shall be changed in a moment.

And we shall behold Him then face to face.

We shall behold Him. We shall behold Him

Face to face in all of His glory.

We shall behold Him. We shall behold Him

Face to face, our Savior and Lord.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

ROBERT CULL / DAVID ALLEN

*Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.*

THE SPOKEN WORD

A Reading from Luke 24:1-12

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1287

SERMON: *THE BIG EMPTY*

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **EASTER HYMN #122:** *Thine Is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

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

H. 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**

* *Those who are able may 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. 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).

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, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.org)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.org)
- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)

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, following the sermon. 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 23rd**, as our choir and musicians will present Part II of **Handel's Messiah**. This will take place as part of our regular morning worship at 11:00.

On the last Sunday in January we marked the **Kickoff of our 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, **Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher**. Mark your calendars for our other celebration events:

- **Sunday, May 28th** – **Rev. Norman Whitney**, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

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.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"

- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

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	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Steward Dillard	Infant Sadie Ruth Majors	Norma Proctor
Donna Mitchell-Ayers	Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods
	Family of Sandy Cook	

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **New Salem Presbyterian, Stony Point; Bethesda Presbyterian, Ruffin; Dellabrook Presbyterian, Winston-Salem**. Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

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.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently looking at the *Nooma* video series, created by author Rob Bell.

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, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for April are **Sherrie Moore and Ron Osborne**.

The congregation has been mailed a letter soliciting donations for replacement of our 40-some-year-old boiler! We are hoping that it will make it through the winter, so this work can be completed in the spring. Please see Ron Kimrey if you have any questions. And thanks in advance for your generosity.

The **Scholarship Committee** reminds those interested that now is the time for applications to receive scholarships for college/graduate school. Applications can be obtained from the church office, and the deadline for applying is April 30th. Please see Ron Osborne if you have any questions.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 19th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 23rd:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / choir presentation of Part II of Handel's *Messiah*

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey
Karen Maxwell
Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

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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