



Bethany Presbyterian Church

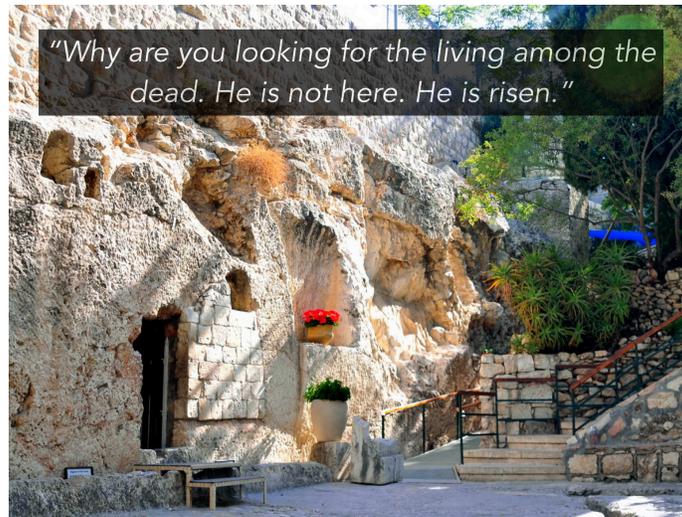
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 21, 2019 – 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 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 #121:** *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

* **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

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

As God has spoken in ages gone by.

God speaks to us now.

Hear the word of the Lord.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 24:1-12

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1287

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.

* 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

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.

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

OFFERTORY: *Don't Cry*

K. FRANKLIN

MACIE SMITH, LITURGICAL DANCE

Why do you cry? He has risen! . . .

* 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

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: *O Church, Arise*

KEITH AND KRISTEN GETTY / STUART TOWNEND

*O church, arise and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!"
Reaching out to those in darkness.*

*Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side,
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—
An inheritance of nations.*

*Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.*

*So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry stride,
Give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.*

In Christ Alone

*No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Jesus Is Dead?***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

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

ENGELBERG

* **RECESSIONAL VOLUNTARY:** *A Joyous Acclamation*

L. SMITH

[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 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.

Please take a moment – members and guests – to sign the **Fellowship Pads** that are located on each row. If you are a guest, please share any contact information you wish to, so that we may be in touch.

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)
- *Glory to God* hymnal (PCUSA)

This morning is EASTER SUNDAY! We joyfully announce good news of the empty tomb! As is our custom, our service will conclude on the side lawn with the flowering of the cross. There are flowers provided at the doors.

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 Elders: Jean Payne and Randy Cousins)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden

Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Family of Levi Byrd
Foy Bayliff
Dusty Kimrey

Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson

Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Alex Thomas
Bill Abplanalp
Robert Sykes

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

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.

Our weekly Bible study, ***Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World***, meets each Tuesday (except for the second Tuesday of the month) at 7:00 here at the church. The study concludes this Tuesday, the 23rd.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Ben Russell)

Elders of the Month for April are **Nancy Purcell** and **Ben Russell**.

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

Tuesday, the 23rd:

- 7:00 – Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday, the 24th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 28th:

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

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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