



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

May 12, 2019 – 11:00 am

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*



*“He gave her his hand and raised her up. Then he called God’s holy people, including the widows, and presented her alive to them. The news spread throughout Joppa, and many put their faith in the Lord.”*  
Acts 9:41-42 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*A couple of generations ago, handmade items were common. With a Singer sewing machine, Mom could make just about anything. Today, however, handcrafted items, being so rare, are highly valued and prized possessions. These items are metaphors for acts of charity and kindness which the biblical character Dorcas demonstrates so well.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Open My Eyes*

T. BIRCHWOOD

### 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 #387:** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Frayed and frazzled, our lives jangling with tension and anxiety,

***we gather to find that place of peace which God offers to us.***

Awash in worries and doubts, drowning in a sea of fears,

***we gather beside the still waters where Jesus offers us a cup of grace.***

Weakened by the burdens of life, wandering as if lost in a wilderness,

***we gather so the Spirit can restore our souls and show us the path to the kingdom.***

## 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

**ACTS 9:36-43**

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1337

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

***Thanks be to God.***

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Whenever we find ourselves waist deep in stress, you float us on your living waters until we are at peace.

***As we try to race down every road and alley of endless meetings, you put up a detour sign directing us to your joy.***

When we find ourselves empty from chasing down the shadows of sin and death, you are setting out a picnic in grace's garden of delights, handing us a slice of bread spread with hope's sweetness.

***Though we try to flee from the very life we are longing to discover, you slow us down until mercy and goodness can catch up with us so, hand in hand, we can race to your house where we are welcomed in all the moments to come.***

Be our Shepherd in this life. We have no time for rest, or to sit by calm oases of grace, or find the right paths to follow, and so we hurt people with our words and deeds, we turn away from the One who seeks to feed us with goodness and mercy.

***God who shepherds us, you must wonder how long we will continue to live the way we do. We snatch hope out of the grasp of those who need it most. Our acts of kindness are offered only to those we think to be deserving of our generosity. We gather around to watch endless reality shows, while those whose real lives are filled with struggle and loss are ignored.***

Yet you refuse to keep forgiveness a mystery, Gracious God, but offer it to us without any hesitation. You gather us in the green pastures of mercy, so we might find hope; you offer us a drink of the living waters so we might become still enough to listen to your heart;

***you send the Spirit to take us by the hand to lead us on the paths of justice; the goodness and mercy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, follow us all the days as we seek to be faithful in our calling to serve him.***

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear the good news: God will lead us into places of hope; God will give us the waters of life to strengthen us; God will be with us in every moment, in every place of our lives.

***Anointed with grace, fed with joy and wonder, we offer blessing and thanksgiving to the One who forgives us now and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.***

### \* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355:** *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!  
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

### \* **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 say what we believe. 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:** *In Times Like These*

R. C. JONES

BEACH SPRING

\* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

*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 #170:** *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

CRIMOND

## **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:** *Plenty Good Room*

ARR. P. F. SIMMS

*Plenty good room, plenty good room,  
Plenty good room in my Father's kingdom.  
Plenty good room, plenty good room,  
Just choose your seat and sit down.*

*I would not be a sinner. I'll tell you the reason why.  
Cause if the Lord would call on me I wouldn't be ready to die.*

*I would not be a liar. I'll tell you the reason why.  
Cause if the Lord would call my name I wouldn't be ready to die.*

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: ***Handcrafted Christians***

REV. JOHNSON

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

\* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Jesus Calls Us* (see next page)

DUKE STREET

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

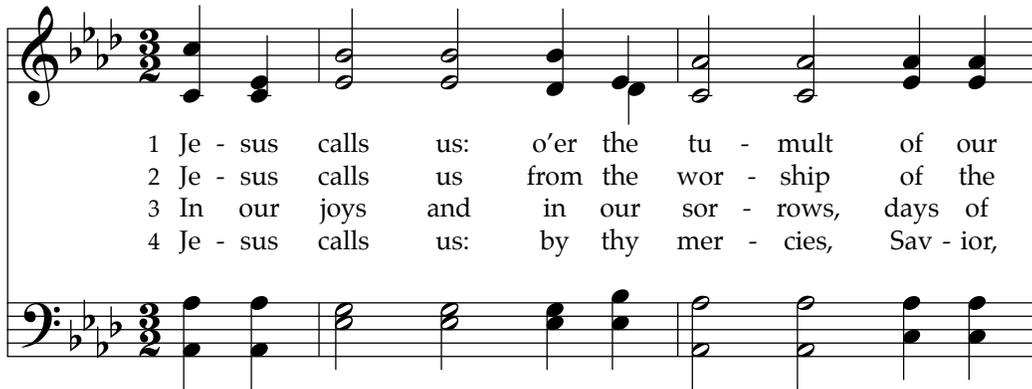
\* **POSTLUDE:** *High Praise*

R. SAWYER

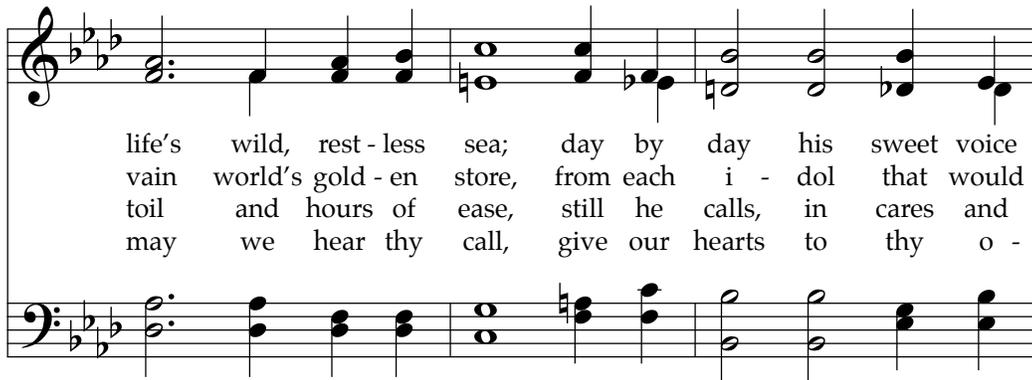
\* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

## Jesus Calls Us

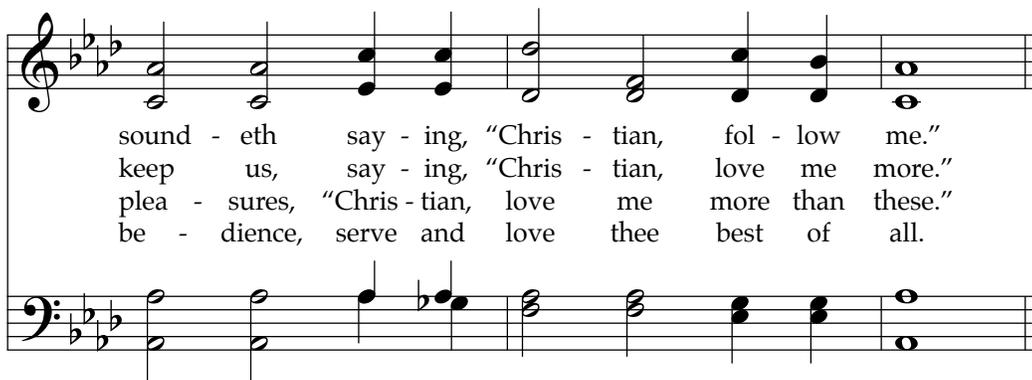
720



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our  
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice  
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."  
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.



# *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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning’s worship:

- *Call to Worship* Lectionary Resources
- *Homiletics Online* website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))

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 Willborn  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Jean Berry  
Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson

Diane Miller  
Peter Slater  
Joey Leake  
Shannon Russell  
Mary Moore  
Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Donna Mitchell-Ayers

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

Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Family of Levi Byrd  
Foy Bayliff  
Dusty Kimrey

Pete Campbell  
Ben Johnson  
Katherine Bayliff  
Randy Thompson  
Jerry Perdue

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.

We are so excited to offer a new Faith Formation experience for the summer with our **Summer Sunday Series, Feasting on the Word**. This study series will be held during the Sunday school hour for the months of June, July, and August, and will be led by the pastor. The class will be held in the classroom across from the offices, and will begin at 9:45 with refreshments and coffee, followed by the lesson. The unique feature of this series is that each session will focus on the scripture passage from which John is preaching on that particular Sunday. Hopefully, the engaging discussion will feed into a more meaningful and engaging worship! Here are the texts and topics for June:

- June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Acts 16:16-34, *Disruptive Information*
- June 9<sup>th</sup>: Acts 2:1-21, *God Talk* (Pentecost Sunday)
- June 16<sup>th</sup>: Psalm 8, *Divine Majesty and Human Dominion*
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>: 1 Kings 19:1-15a, *Sounds of Silence*
- June 30<sup>th</sup>: TBA - John away

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

Elders of the Month for May are **Jean Payne** and **Chip Allen**.

**The Session** is reminded of its monthly stated meeting this **Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Circle #3

Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>:

- Meeting of Salem Presbytery / Taylorsville Presbyterian Church
- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup>:

- 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

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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