



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 13, 2018 – 11:00 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter



“He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.”

Luke 24:50-53 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We assume that because there’s a button to push, that pushing it makes a difference. We assume that what the advertiser tells us is true, is true. Not always the case. Are we sometimes too willing to follow conventional wisdom? Jesus has some counterintuitive advice for his followers as they prepare to carry on his work, and it’s advice we often are not willing to accept. His advice is: WAIT!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *There Is a Fountain*

G. DAVIDSON

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: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

UYAI MOSE

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you;

(Repeat)

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”

*Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you;*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

From comfortable pews, from car seats, from easy chairs in front of TVs:

God gathers us in, giving us the words with which to proclaim the gospel.

At kitchen sinks, at laptops and blackboards, at nursing stations:

Christ calls us to share in serving all creation.

In communities gathered to pray, in memories of those who served, in families grilling in the backyard:

The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy.

*** OPENING HYMN #144: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!**

HYFRYDOL

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 24:44-53

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1288

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

We gather as God's people, believing the promises fulfilled in Christ. We do not need to confess out of dread or fear, but trusting that God is faithful to forgive us and make us new. Join me as we pray, saying,

How foolish we are, to think we could be happy when we sit in seduction's comfortable seats, and scoff at your call to discipleship; or run down the easy streets of sin, rather than following Jesus; or idolize the celebrities and superstars, and not see you in those who wait on us in stores, restaurants, and sport arenas.

Forgive us, Author of Life. Keep us from our silly selfishness as we seek to become those branches children can climb on; as we hope to provide shade for fellow pilgrims; as we long to be continually nourished by the Living Water of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

We are no longer blown about in the winds of the world, we are grounded, yesterday, today, tomorrow in God's forgiveness, hope and love.

Today, tomorrow, forever: we can bear fresh fruit, sharing God's peace and joy with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #485: To God Be the Glory**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give Him the glory: great things He has done!

*** 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: *Reach Out and Touch*

C. BROWN

*** 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.*

BEACH SPRING

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*** HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Be Still My Soul* (see page 4)

FINLANDIA

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: *God So Loved the World*

JOHN STAINER

*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son
That whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
But that the world through Him might be saved.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Maybe That'll Work*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN #429:** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Everlasting Victory*

H. TURNER

Please stand in body or spirit.

Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.



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.

“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 can 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:

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

Next Sunday, **May 20th is Pentecost Sunday**. As is our custom, and to join in the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit on those gathered at the birth of the church, remember to **WEAR RED** to church! And to continue our celebration, Presbyterian Women is sponsoring a **Baked Potato Luncheon** following worship.

Are you really into singing hymns! Do you miss some of the old favorites? Then you will not want to miss our **Hymn Sing** two weeks from today, during worship on **Sunday, May 27th**. Our service that Sunday will be devoted to praising God through the singing of hymns. As you can see from the insert in the bulletin, you have the opportunity to make suggestions for the hymns we will sing on that day. See in the insert for more information.

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.

The national touring company **United in Music** (Chris Bagley) will present the play *“Moments With Paul,”* a musical and spoken portrayal of the 20th century world famous scholar, actor, singer, lawyer, all-American athlete and civil rights activist – Paul Robeson. The show will be performed in dinner theater format at Occasions II in downtown Burlington on **Saturday, May 19, 2018**. This is a benefit performance with a portion of the proceeds to support the programs of Allied Churches of Alamance County, Inc. (ACAC). Tickets for dinner and show are \$40 (single) and \$300 (for a table of 8) and can be purchased at Occasions II, 286 E. Front St., Burlington, NC 27215. (336.227.9887) or online at www.eventbrite.com (search for event – Moments With Paul).

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)

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)

Copies of the **Narrative Budget** that was distributed at the recent meeting of the corporation are available in the church office or at the mailboxes.

Elders of the Month for May are **Glenn Patterson** and **Nancy Purcell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Tuesday, the 15th:

- Meeting of Salem Presbytery / Alamance Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
- 7:00 – *Jesus for President* Book Study

Wednesday, the 16th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 20th:

- **Pentecost Sunday**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 12:00 – Presbyterian Women Congregational Birthday Luncheon

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
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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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