



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 14, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter



“After this I will return, and I will rebuild David’s fallen tent; I will rebuild what has been torn down. I will restore it so that the rest of humanity will seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who belong to me.”
Acts 1:16-17 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lord of all, in Jesus you have made us all sisters and brothers in Christ. There is no distinction between Gentile and Jew. There is no separation that can remove any from fellowship in Christ’s community. Blind us to our differences so that in unity we may proclaim your truth to all, for the sake of Jesus Christ in whom there is harmony and peace. Amen.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *One Sweetly Solemn Thought*

D. MOORE

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* (see next page)

PATRICK MATSIKENYIRI

Jesus, We Are Here

Jesu, tawa pano

392

1 Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus,
1 Je - su, ta - wa pa - no; Je - su, ta - wa pa - no; Je - su,

Leader: Wel - come, Je - sus.
Mam - bo Je - su.
we are here; we are here for you.
ta - wa pa - no; ta - wa pa - no, mu zi - ta re - nyu.

2 Savior,... 3 Teacher,... 4 Spirit,...

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to this place, a haven for healing and hope.

We come, with the pain of our burdens; we come to hear God's Word for us.

Together, we will sing songs of joy; each of us will hear God whisper our name.

We join our voices in prayer and praise; we sing of our longing for new lives.

Here, our shadowed corners are filled with Light; here we discover that God dwells with us.

And not just us, for God would teach all to love; God's Spirit would lead all peoples in peace.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* HYMN OF PRAISE #461: *God Is Here!*

ABBOTT'S LEIGH

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

How easy we can learn of God's love - how hard it is to live it! The world distracts us with its easy choices, while we know how intentional we must be to love one another. Join me as we confess our failures to love and we open our hearts to God, saying,

Because you dwell in our hearts, Eternal God, you know how the anger, the pain, the bitterness of our lives try to crowd you out. The noise of the world deafens us to that Word which can heal us. We want our children to be good, kind, and gentle to others, and then they hear us call others names, and speak of them with demeaning words. Our desire for revenge towards those who have hurt us shows that your peace, indeed, is not within us.

You promise a new heaven and a new earth, so create new spirits and lives within us, O God. Shattered by our sin, your heart can still heal our brokenness. Your Spirit, living deep within our souls, can teach us faithful ways. Your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, whispers to us of your mercy, your hope, your love.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The Word which can transform is not some idle gossip, but good news for us. It fills us with forgiveness, equips us for service, and sends us forth to love others as God loves us.

In our midst, the Holy Spirit teaches us all we need to know, gives us what we need in order to be faithful, and fills us with peace. 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

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 #383: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OLIVET

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Let Peace Descend*

L. SMITH

* 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

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

ROBERT CULL

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 WORD IN MUSIC: *Changed*

L. JOHNSON / T. FETTKE

*In only a moment – in the twinkling of an eye;
At the sound of the trumpet we will see Him come.
In only a moment we'll behold Him in the sky,
And the Lord, Himself, will quickly take us home.*

*We shall all be changed,
Caught up to heaven in a cloud of glory.
We shall all be changed, transformed in victory.
Death, where is thy sting? God conquered death and hell.
We shall all be changed. We shall all be changed.*

*In only a moment Jesus Christ will call His own;
With the voice of an angel and the trump of God.
In only a moment we'll be raised from earth to heaven,
And will live in peace forever with the Lord.*

THE SPOKEN WORD

A Reading from Acts 15:1-18
This is Holy Scripture for God's people.
Thanks be to God!

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1346

SERMON: A WAY FORWARD

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #442:** *The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Ever in the Faith*

E. BROUGHTON

* *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:

- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)
- *Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnal
- The Text This Week website (www.textweek.org)

Just two weeks from today we will mark the **second event in 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	

The **Men of the Church** will gather **this Thursday, May 18th at 6:00** in the Rec building for an evening of fellowship and good food.

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: **First Presbyterian, Salisbury; Immanuel Presbyterian, China Grove, First Presbyterian, Greensboro; all Members-at-Large**. 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 using the Wired Word curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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 May are **Ron Kimrey and Nancy Purcell**.

The installation of our new boiler is now complete! Those who have generously contributed to the \$28,000 cost of the boiler are offered our most sincere thanks. Donations are still be accepted and can be either put in the offering plate, or sent to the church office.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 17th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, the 18th:

- 6:00 – Men of the Church

Sunday, the 21st:

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

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



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Staff

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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