



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

May 17, 2020 – 11:00 am

Sixth Sunday of Easter



*"I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too."*

John 14:18-19 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*I give thanks for the gift of life and breath that is mine today in Christ. Make me eager to do good and to resist evil, and grant me the wisdom to recognize the difference. Fill me with your assurance in all I say and do that I may share the hope that is within me in gentleness and reverence of Christ. Amen.* - Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost (pp. 160-161). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.

### PRELUDE:

### 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.)*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.

***We glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.***

Come into the presence of the One who calls us into these sacred spaces.

***Where the doors to grace are thrown open so all may enter.***

Come and hear the stories of the One who loves us.

***We will tell of the joy and of the love, of the peace and of the hope which is ours.***

\* **OPENING HYMN #139:** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

ITALIAN HYMN

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

**JOHN 14:15-21**

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

***Thanks be to God.***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1312

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

When it doesn't seem to do any good, Creator God, we dare to be your people, to love those the world would have us reject; to be just in the face of every reason to mistreat; to be unafraid of whatever awaits us.

***When all the odds seem stacked against us, we dare to live as your sisters and brothers, serving others with our hands and hearts; sharing in the burdens of our world; refusing to leave justice orphaned with no hope.***

When the wind seems to be knocked out of us by the blows of life, we dare to breathe joy upon those caught in the net of hopelessness; peace into all the broken places around us; wonder for all those who have lost sight of you.

***In you, we dare to live and breathe and be.***

What is our hope? Simply put, it is that God does not give up on us. With such good news, we can dare to bring our prayers to the One who will not cast aside our words or our hearts.

***We admit, Knowing God, that from plastic cards to websites, from handheld devices to stock options, we are surrounded by a variety of gods who demand our worship. We can all too easily believe that work is our life, that wealth is the reason for our being, and that success is the very air we breathe.***

Forgive us, God of mercy. You are not found in a computer chip, but in the child who holds our hand. You are not a simple tweet, but the Word that can transform our very lives. You are not a disembodied, constantly recalculating voice, but the One who calls us to life, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Despite everything we do, God loves us. This grace is why we can dare to hope.

***We will witness to this hope in every word we speak to every person we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.***

### \* 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

#### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \* HYMN OF THE DAY #145: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

MARION

## 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 PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Finishing the Race*

REV. JOHNSON

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

\* **CLOSING HYMN #376:** *Love Divine, All Lives Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

### \* SENDING

Go from this place, speaking of what God has done.

***We will remind everyone that, despite everything, God loves us.***

Go from this place, singing of what God is doing.

***We will rejoice that God has not left us orphaned, but makes us one with everyone around us.***

Go from this place, imagining what God will do.

***We will witness to that hope which seems too distant, yet is as close to us as our hearts.***

### \* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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\* *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](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).

Obviously, due to the ongoing health crisis surrounding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, we are not worshipping in person at this point in time, but rather gathering virtually using the Zoom meeting platform. Each week the congregation will be emailed a link by which everyone can join the meeting using their computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet. John will lead worship in this manner, and congregants are invited to participate as they are able. For those who are unable to connect via Zoom, we are also hoping to be on Facebook Live as well. For those unable to get the link via email, it will also be on our Facebook page, and on our website.

**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). A **Video Recording** of our Zoom worship will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today's worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources
- *When We Gather* worship resource
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Shirley Lane
Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney
Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore	Katherine Turner
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
Alex Thomas	Katherine Bayliff and family	Robert Sykes
Randy Thompson	Glenn Thompson	Ritchie Fishburne
Frederica Beatty	Carol Brooks	Janie Holt Clapp
Christopher Bagley	Lou Crutchfield	Jean Payne

**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. **(Classes will resume when we return to having church in person!)**

**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.

**SUPPORT Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for May are **Karen Maxwell** and **Nancy Purcell**.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

Wednesday, the 20th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice (not meeting)

Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup>:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Karen Maxwell

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

### Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

# 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)

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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