



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

May 19, 2019 – 11:00 am

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*



*“Then the one seated on the throne said, ‘Look! I’m making all things new.’ He also said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.’”*  
Revelation 21:5-6 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*“Heaven on earth.” It’s an expression referring to a physical locale that is so exquisitely wonderful, it can only be compared to the platonic ideal: the paradise of the afterlife or heaven as it is described in the book of Revelation. We may not know with certainty what the heaven of the next life is like, but sometimes we encounter an earthly experience that seems to give us a taste.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *But the Lord is Mindful of His Own*

F. MENDELSSOHN

### 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:** *We Are One in the Spirit* (see page 4)

PETER SCHOLTES

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

How wondrous! A new heaven and a new earth!

***The old, bruised and angered, fearful and alienated, will pass away.***

In its place God will offer new hope and peace

***God will dwell with God’s people forevermore.***

Worship the Lord who is about to do a new thing.

***Praise God who establishes God's reign in the heart of God's people. Let us worship God!***

\* **OPENING HYMN #481:** *Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show*

LLANFAIR

## 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

**REVELATION 21:1-6**

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1509

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

***Thanks be to God.***

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Alpha and Omega, you make your home with us, you dry our tears and quench our thirst, you are the tender love that welcomes all people.

***Like a mother, you nurture your children, giving them life, teaching them to love. Come and dwell among us, and make all things new.***

God of all people, our hearts are too narrow, our perspectives are too small.

***We reject those who are not like us—those with different political opinions, those who struggle with mental illness, those who disagree with us.***

We forget that all are your beloved children, and neglect your call to love one another.

***Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we have failed to be a people known by our love. Show us how to be more caring. Teach us how to love one another, and make us faithful disciples.***

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God dwells among us, giving to all who believe the repentance that leads to life.

***Rejoice in the Lord, for we are a forgiven people. 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:** *The Old Rugged Cross*

G. BERNARD

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 #473:** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

## 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:** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

CROSBY / DOANE

*Morgan Troxler, soloist*

*Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain. (Refrain)*

*In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;  
There the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. (Refrain)*

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. (Refrain)*

## THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Heaven on Earth*

REV. JOHNSON

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

\* **CLOSING HYMN #386:** *O for a World*

AZMON

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Unto All the World*

C. NEAL

\* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

# We Are One in the Spirit 300

## They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)  
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;  
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;  
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;  
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)  
B<sup>b</sup>m Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,  
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,  
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,  
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)  
B<sup>b</sup>m Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

*Refrain* (C) (Em)  
D<sup>b</sup> Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)  
B<sup>b</sup>m Fm B<sup>b</sup>m Cm Fm B<sup>b</sup>m/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.



# *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 **Brandon Troxler**. 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.homileticsonline.com](http://www.homileticsonline.com))
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))

Please stop by our nursery and say hello to our new nursery worker, **Paige Butts**. Paige will be with us at least through the summer. She is a familiar face around Bethany as she hangs out with her grandmother, Karen Maxwell!

**Nursery Volunteers Needed!** We rejoice that we have a nursery attendant during our worship services. However, policy requires that there be two adults present at all times. We feel that it is important that this role not fall on parents all the time and that as a congregation we uphold our promise made at baptism to take part in the nurture and care of our children. To that end, we would like to ask for volunteers to be with Paige in the nursery during the worship hour. The sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center.

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	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
Family of Levi Byrd	Katherine Bayliff	Alex Thomas
Foy Bayliff	Randy Thompson	Bill Abplanalp
Dusty Kimrey	Jerry Perdue	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**.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 26<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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