



Bethany Presbyterian Church

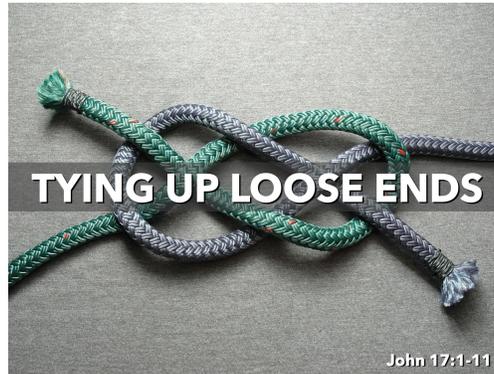
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 24, 2020 – 11:00 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter



“Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one.”
John 17:10-11 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Delivering God, you have safely brought me to this new day. Keep me free from all dangers, perils, and troubles. By the power of your Spirit, strengthen my focus as I seek to follow Christ and to humbly serve your truth. Amen.
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost (p. 171).
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

At the presence of God, we rejoice:

glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.

In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:

to the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.

Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:

making God’s love known to the world-forsaken in our midst.

* OPENING HYMN #442: *The Church’s One Foundation*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

JOHN 17:1-11

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1316

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Giver of power and strength, you take a rag-tag bunch of denying disciples and feckless followers, creating a new community of servants who seek to do your will.

Keeper of all time, you are enthroned on the rubble of death's shattered power, calling us to your side and giving us a new vocation, by which we serve the broken of the communities in which we live.

Constant Presence of hope, you strengthen us so we never give in while confronted by evil; you continually pray for us that we never quit when faith proves to be more of a challenge than we imagined.

God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our hearts to you.

We know what we should do, yet don't. We know the words people need to hear, but utter the ones that hurt them. Yet, we also know that if we confess our failings to God, we will receive forgiveness and hope.

God of glory: we are so busy watching the skies for signs of your presence that we forget to look around to see those we can serve in your name. We are so intent on finding just the right way to tell someone off, that we forget the words of reconciliation you have taught to us. We are so convinced we can figure out your schedule that we forget to open ourselves to the presence of your Spirit within us.

Mighty source of our lives, forgive us for all that we have done to others. Fill us with the wisdom to resist evil in our lives and strengthen us in that faith which is given to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life.

Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life. 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 #282: *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

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: *Tying Up Loose Ends*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #361:** *How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

* **SENDING**

The hour has come to go into the world,
where our worship of God will continue in every moment of our lives.
The hour has come to serve those around us,
to shoulder the burdens of our sisters, to ease the pain of our brothers.
The hour has come to glorify God,
with our prayers as well as our praise, with songs as well as acts of service.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* *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; on Facebook at 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.

As we move through Phase 1 of our state's plan for reopening, we are encouraged by the signs that we can continue into Phase 2 at the end of this week. If these trends continue, we will be back to worship together in person on **next Sunday, May 31st**. This is also **Pentecost Sunday, and so we will gather for "Pentecost in the Park"** - gathering in the park outside our Rec Building across the road. We will meet at our usual **11:00** worship hour. Please bring lawn chairs or beach chairs to sit on - or whatever you wish to bring. Chairs will be available for those who don't have chairs to bring. You will be encouraged to observe social distancing and spread out in this beautiful setting. **What a joyous day it will be as we celebrate to (Re)Birth of the Church.**

Next Sunday will also mark John's last Sunday before he begins his 3-month sabbatical on June 1st. Commissioned Ruling Elder **Rick Purcell will assume this duties filling in during John's absence.** Rick is scheduled to work 20 hours per week, leading worship and preaching, tending to pastoral care issues, and other duties as they may arise.

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. 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)

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
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Alex Thomas
Randy Thompson

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Katherine Bayliff and family
Glenn Thompson

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Robert Sykes
Ritchie Fishburne

Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley

Carol Brooks
Lou Crutchfield

Janie Holt Clapp
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 27th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice (not meeting)

Sunday, the 31st:

- **11:00 – “Pentecost in the Park” Worship Celebration!**

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

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – 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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