



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 26, 2019 – 11:00 am

Sixth Sunday of Easter



“Night will be no more. They won’t need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine on them, and they will rule forever and always.”

Revelation 22:5 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

China recently announced plans to launch a satellite over Chengdu that would be a fake moon, helping to illuminate the city after dark, thus saving money on electricity. This idea is an ancient one, really. Today’s epistle reading — from the last two chapters of the biblical canon, proposes the same idea, but takes the concept even further — a city with no sun, no moon and no night!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Prelude on “Bread of Life”*

G. YOUNG

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 #564:** *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

MATERNA

* 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: ‘Beloved of my heart.’

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.

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

375 Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

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 21:10, 22-22:5
Holy wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1509

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

How magnificent the sight must be! The vision of John proclaims a crystal river flowing from God's throne, comforting light, peace and hope for all God's people. Darkness is vanquished.

Open our eyes and our hearts to catch a glimpse of this vision. Help us to place our trust in you, that we may faithfully serve you, knowing what awaits our eyes in glory.

Lord, You know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed.

So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, who feared. Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy.

Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign.

Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Let the light of God's eternal love flood into our hearts this day. Feel the healing presence of God in our lives. Accept God's love and hope for us.

This is the gift freely given to us by Jesus Christ, God's risen Son our Lord. 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: *Because He Lives*

W. GAITHER

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 #510: *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts***

QUEBEC

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

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE: SETH SMITH

THE WORD IN MUSIC

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *No Sun, No Moon, No Night*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #432:** *Song of Hope*

ARGENTINE FOLK MELODY

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Carry His Love With You*

A. MASON

* *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).

“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 **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:

- *Call to Worship* Lectionary Resources
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (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.

Our service this morning includes the **Recognition of High School Graduate, Seth Smith**. Seth will graduate in a few days from Southern Alamance High School, and will be attending Western Carolina University this fall. We congratulate Seth on this accomplishment and wish him all the best as he continues his education.

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 2nd: Acts 16:16-34, *Disruptive Information*
- June 9th: Acts 2:1-21, *God Talk* (Pentecost Sunday)
- June 16th: Psalm 8, *Divine Majesty and Human Dominion*
- June 23rd: 1 Kings 19:1-15a, *Sounds of Silence*
- June 30th: 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 29th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 2nd:

- 9:45 – *Feasting on the Word* Summer Study Series
- 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

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love learn serve



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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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