



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

May 28, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*



*“When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought to himself, The Lord is definitely in this place, but I didn’t know it. He was terrified and thought, This sacred place is awesome. It’s none other than God’s house and the entrance to heaven.”*  
Genesis 28:16-17 (RSV)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*God of all time and space, we gather on this special day, remembering those who dreamed dreams and saw visions in this place 125 years ago. May we continue to build on that strong foundation and inspiring legacy so that the mission and ministry of Bethany Presbyterian may continue for many years to come. Amen.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

### 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.)*

\* **GATHERING SONG:** *Here in this Place (Gather Us In)*

MARTY HAUGEN

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

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1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord!

***Praise the Lord! Give thanks to God!***

For 125 years, God has nurtured and fed us.

***For 125 years, God has shown us undeserved grace.***

For 125 years, God has given himself in Word and Sacrament.

***For 125 years, God has empowered us with the Holy Spirit.***

For 125 years, God has called us to be witnesses in the world.

*For 125 years, God has placed us in loving fellowship with one another.*

Praise the Lord for 125 years! Praise God of 125 more!

*Praise the Lord forevermore! Oh, praise the name of the Lord!*

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE #430:** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

DARWALL'S 148TH

### AN OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION

Dear Lord, thank you for drawing us into community in this place that has been called home for so many.

***Inspire us with the lives of those before us, those ancient ones who have lived here in faith and opened up and given away your love to all those who needed it.***

May you change us with a vision to continue here as a constant presence for those who travel through life a community of welcome that cares for all our family of faith, believing into what is still yet to be.

***Teach us to discern your voice as those before us have discerned your voice, guided by its call and feeding on its promise of life and hope and belonging.***

May we hear your word: a comforting word in its familiar sound, yet a disturbing word in what it speaks anew and longs for us to become.

***Hold us within the faith of our predecessors, those who chose to meet you here in this church, who recognized this place as a meeting place where your miracle of grace abides.***

May we be moved by that grace into all the places that make up our community, sharing what you have given abundantly like an ever flowing stream.

***Call us from our past, through the voices of our ancestors, in the songs they have sung and the prayers they have spoken that have shaped peace within this church.***

And may we join our voice with their voice, in the one great song of love that will be lived and celebrated yet, throughout this place we call Bethany. When we fail to live as God's people, we are like flowers which give way to weeds. But God seeks us out, not to condemn us, but to comfort, to forgive, and to bring us home. Let us stop playing hide-and-seek with our God, as we confess our sins together, saying,

***Brazenly we turn against you, God of truth. When we follow those desires that control us; when we live for ourselves, shutting off the gifts of those around us; when we think we do not need to share love, hope, peace with others, we show how we have joined those who ignore your way of life.***

Yet, you have chosen to adopt us as your children, forgiving us and making us inheritors with Jesus of your grace and joy. So lead us by the Spirit, that we might follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into creation which groans for love and healing.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In sorrow so deep we cannot find our way out, God cradles us in comfort; in moments so shadowed we trip over our fears, God lights the way for us; in joy which cascades into our souls, God fills us with healing.

***Even when we cannot see it, God's hope is all around us, surrounding us with peace and healing. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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 #438:** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

**AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES**

**OFFERTORY**

*Tina and Glenn Patterson, duet  
Victor Li, guitar*

G. F. HANDEL

**\* THE DOXOLOGY**

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) / MOMENT FOR MISSION**

**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 SPOKEN WORD**

A Reading from Genesis 28:10-17

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 33

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Dwell in the House*

GAIL JONES MURPHY

*One thing have I desired of the Lord,*

*One thing have I desired of the Lord,*

*And that will I seek after, that will I seek after*

*That I may dwell in the house, dwell in the house*

*That I may dwell in the house of the Lord.*

*All the days of my life!*

*To behold the beauty of the Lord.*

*That I may dwell in His temple. This is my heart's desire.*

*That I may dwell in the house, of the Lord.*

**THE SPOKEN WORD**

A Reading from Acts 11:1-18

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

*Thanks be to God!*

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1340

**SERMON: A DREAM . . . OR TWO . . . OR THREE**

REV. NORMAN WHITNEY

**LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME**

\* **CLOSING HYMN #276:** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE**

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\* *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](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).

**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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

We welcome as guest musician this morning, violinist **Victor Li**. Victor is a classical guitar performance student at Appalachian State University, studying under Dr. Douglas James. In addition to pursuing a degree in music, Mr. Li is fulfilling pre-medical requirements. He has been featured as a soloist on violin with the Appalachian Symphony Orchestra, upon winning the annual Concerto Aria Competition at the Hayes School of Music.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- re:worship website ([www.re-worship.blogspot.com](http://www.re-worship.blogspot.com))
- *Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnal
- The Text This Week website ([www.textweek.org](http://www.textweek.org))

**TODAY** marks the **second event in our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**, which began in January with our kickoff service. We are thrilled to welcome back former pastor **Rev. Norman** Whitney to our pulpit this morning. Norman served Bethany from 1968-2009. Following retirement in 2009, Norman has been serving as Parish Associate at First Presbyterian of Burlington. We welcome **Norman and Ida** with open and loving arms as they return "home!"

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:

- **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** ([www.davidlamotte.com](http://www.davidlamotte.com))
- **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

Please join us following worship for a delicious **Potato and Salad Bar Luncheon** in the Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for the luncheon, but donations are graciously accepted, as we continue our anniversary celebration.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in loving honor of **Norman and Ida Whitney** and **John and Debbie Johnson**.

**Anniversary T-Shirts** are now available for purchase. There will be a table set up in the Fellowship Hall. Cash, checks, or credit cards accepted.

**Next Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday**. As we celebrate the "birthday of the church," we remember that the liturgical color for this day is red. So, please come to church wearing something red!

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
	Pete Campbell	

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](http://www.salempresbytery.org). On the prayer list for this week are: **Renee Engle, Chaplain Heart Two Hands Ministries; Laurel Fork Presbyterian, Laurel Springs; Danbury Community Church.** 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.**

### **This Week's Calendar:**

**Today – 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration #2**

- **9:45 – Sunday School for all ages**
- **11:00 – Worship, welcoming back former pastor Rev. Norman Whitney to the pulpit**
- **12:00 – Potato and Salad Bar Luncheon**

Wednesday, the 31<sup>st</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday – wear RED!**

- 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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