Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

June 15, 2025 – 11:00 am
Trinity Sunday

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Holy, Holy, Holy!* JOSEPH PRENTISS (TUNE: NICAEA)

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL #139:** *Come, Thou Almighty King* FELICE DE GIARDINI

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise:
Father, all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,
The highest praises be,
Hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of the glory of God!

GATHERING PRAYER (B.J. BEU)

Holy Wisdom, Spirit of truth, your glory is written across the starry heavens;
your wonder is etched in the earth and seas.
Who are we that you care for us so deeply? Why do you love us so completely?
Raise your clarion call once more. Speak to us this day, that our lives may be steeped in your wisdom,
And our path may be marked with delight in your goodness. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*HYMN OF THE DAY : *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* SIMON MARAK

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back; no turning back.

If no one joins me, still I will follow;
If no one joins me, still I will follow;
If no one joins me, still I will follow;
No turning back; no turning back.

The cross before me, the world behind me;
The cross before me, the world behind me;
The cross before me, the world behind me;
No turning back, no turning back.

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

Blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yours is a perfect relationship, one God in three persons, mutual and whole. We confess that our relationships are not that way. We have been too selfish; we have given too much; we have accepted too little. We have failed to love in the manner of Jesus. We have let sin drive us away from one another and from you. We long for wholeness and peace, but our sin pulls us in other directions. Forgive us and restore us. Pull us to you. With mercy and grace, pull us to you. Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace

With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God relentlessly seeks us out. This is good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Litany for our Graduates

We are gathered together
to celebrate the accomplishments of members of our community.

We give blessings to you for all that you have achieved
and many more achievements yet to come.

One part of your life's journey is complete.
You will prepare to begin another phase
that will take you to unimaginable places.

As you prepare for your next journey,
we hope that you remember the ones you leave behind,
who have loved and supported you throughout the years.

We give you blessings of good will and love
as you journey forth into the world.
We thank you for the laughter and fellowship
that you have shared with us
and pray that as you begin your next journey,
remember the times that we all have shared with you.

Use those memories as a beacon to guide you on your path.
Don't look back; continue only forward,
while using those memories to create a new path.

We pray that God will give you strength and determination
to develop new relationships that will help to strengthen
and sustain your faith.

Because we are made in the image of God
we have been blessed with free will to make choices and decisions.

We pray that you make wise and rational decisions,
always turning to God for help.
God hears, God listens, God is always with you.
Do not forget that.
Always keep in mind that God is around
and if you turn to him, he will guide you.

~ from *Episcopal Life Weekly,* posted on the **Church Publishing** website.
https://www.churchpublishing.org/media/custom/IN-Formation/eLifeGraduationInsert.pdf

Presentation of Our Graduates

Charge for Our Graduates

"Prayer for School Leavers," Sally Foster-Fulton

Today, as you take yet another step on your journey, we want you to know that our love and admiration and prayers surround you.
We offer our hands to hold yours, our hearts who to cheer yours, and our feet to join you when you need us to walk with you.
We send prayers aloft that your lives will not offer what you expect exactly, but that life will continually surprise you.
We pray that you will be used by the God who created you, led by the Christ who teaches and challenged by the Spirit who leads you on.

Prayer for Our Graduates

Eternal God,
in your will our lives are lived, and by your wisdom truth is found.
We pray for graduates who finish a course of study, and move on to something new.
Take away anxiety or confusion of purpose, and give them confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and given to neighbors in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 8 — pew Bible, 669

John 16:12-15 — pew Bible, 1315

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Word in Music: *Just For Me* Soloist: Kim Mitchell-Ayers — Kenneth W. Louis

The Word Proclaimed

Sermon: *"Trinity"* — Rick Purcell, CRE

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

An Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory

***Doxology #592:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* — Thomas Ken

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Blessing Our Gifts

***Closing Hymn #138:** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* — Reginald Herber

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

*Sending

Let us go from this place trusting that God is with us and for us in every place.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you this day and forevermore. Amen

Postlude: *Joy Unceasing ad Infinite Praise* — Tom Birchwood

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Tuesday, July 1 10:30am **The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, July 1st at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, July 1st **Alamance Co. Mobile Library**

Starting in June the Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library with be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30. Please stop by and "check-out" this wonderful service the library has to share

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **June**? They are asking for **Breakfast items (Cereals, Granola Bars, Oatmeal, Breakfast Bars), Children and Adult diapers and Feminine products.**
S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.
Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, June 15th – Trinity Sunday & Celebration of Graduates

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, June18th

6:30 – No Choir Practice

Sunday, June 22nd – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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worship serve teach support

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Session
Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE
Clerk: Randy Cousins
Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2025:
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Tina Patterson
Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:
Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

Class of 2027:
Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Brandon Troxler

Staff
Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – *pastor4bethany@gmail.com*
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – *bethanypresmusic@gmail.com*
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – *office@bethanypreschurch.org*
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