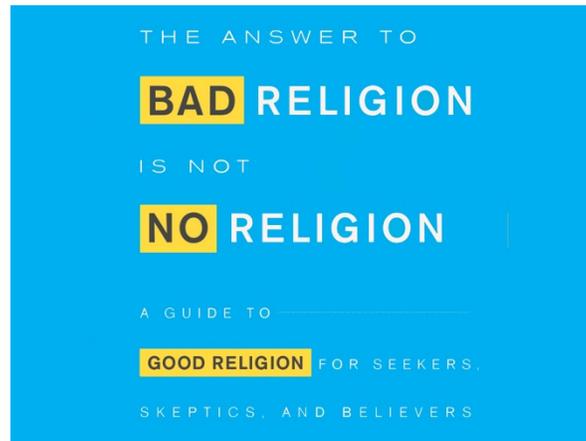




Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

June 17, 2018 – 11:00 am
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



“Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

This morning’s service emphasizes religion that is not simply against things, defining itself by what it is not (a temptation for both conservative and mainline churches), but that is affirming and proactive about what is good. Rather than lamenting the state of the world or the behavior of others, good religion is hopeful about the future.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Spirit of Life, in this New Dawn*

L. A. WARRINER / P. SMITH

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:** *I Love You, Lord*

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear. (Repeat all)

LAURIE KLEIN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day the Lord has made:

a day for praise and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.

This is the time God has given us:

a time for singing and silence; a time for speaking and listening.

This is the life to which God calls us:

a life of humility and service; a life of faith and trust.

* **OPENING HYMN:** *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.*

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!*

*I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. (Refrain)*

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. (Refrain)*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

The universe proclaims God's truth. God's knowledge flows night and day!

We open our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, our hearts to receive.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11-18

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1440

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred,

let me sow love.

Where there is injury,

let me forgive.

Where there is doubt,

let me show faith.

Where there is despair,

let me be hope.

Where there is darkness,

let me shine your light.

Where there is sadness,

let me share joy. Even when troubles abound, I will give thanks.

Lord, in the darkest moments of our lives, you are there. When trouble and turmoil seem to bring shadows over all the earth, you are still there. Help us to see you working in all things, give thanks in any circumstance, and bring hope to our neighbors that light will shine in darkness and darkness will not overcome it.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Forgiven and healed, we open ourselves to the grace, the peace, the hope offered to us through our loving God. This is the good news we have received!

Graced and blessed, we are able to live our lives for others, taking them by the hand to reach that finish line called the Kingdom. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak*

DENNIS JERNIGAN

*You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.
When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!*

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

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?

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: *Jesus is All the World to Me*

TUNE: ELIZABETH, BY W. L. THOMPSON

* THE DOXOLOGY:

OLD HUNDREDETH

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF THE DAY: *When Peace Like a River*

VILLE DU HAVRE

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION AND SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

QUESTION OF COMMITMENT

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, those gathered as Bethany Presbyterian Church, promise to embrace Helen and Bill as fellow travelers, to welcome them into this family of faith with open arms, and to pray for them in this new endeavor?

We do.

PRAYER

WELCOME

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Seek Ye the Lord*

Seek ye the Lord while He may be found.

Call ye upon Him while He is near.

*Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts,
and return unto the Lord;*

and He will have mercy and abundantly pardon.

J. V. ROBERTS

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Answer to Negativity is Hope*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Draw the Welcome Circle Wider* (see next page)

MARY LOUISE BRINGLE / BEACH SPRING

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

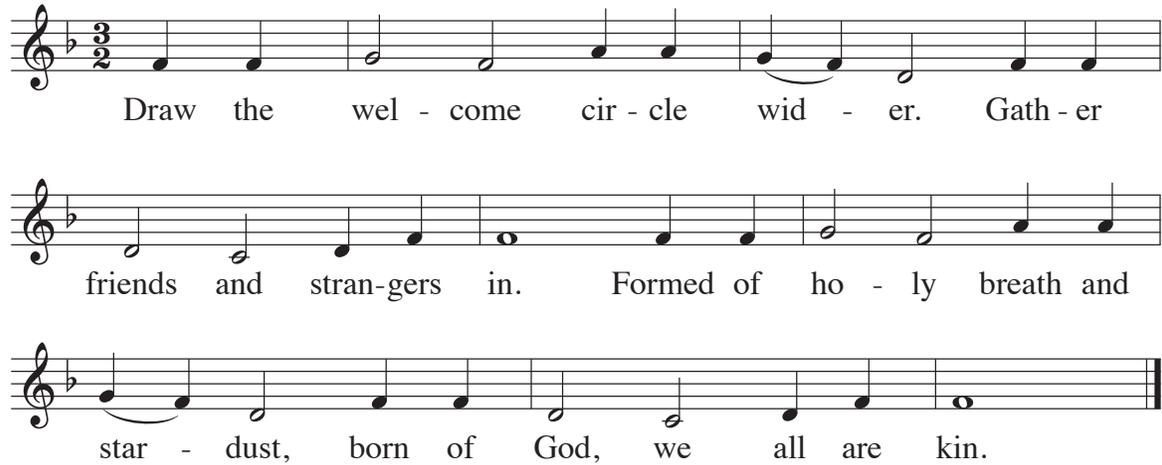
* **POSTLUDE:** *Ever in the Faith*

E. BROUGHTON

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

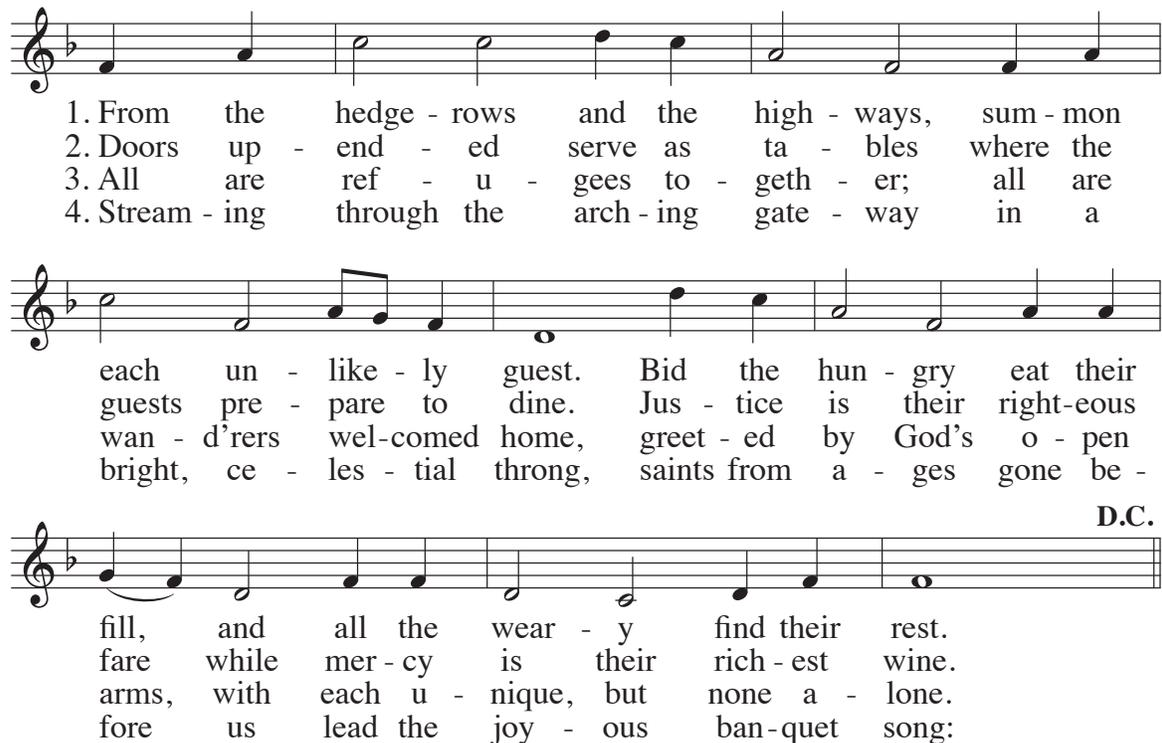
Draw the Welcome Circle Wider

Refrain



Draw the wel - come cir - cle wid - er. Gath - er
friends and stran - gers in. Formed of ho - ly breath and
star - dust, born of God, we all are kin.

Verses



1. From the hedge - rows and the high - ways, sum - mon
2. Doors up - end - ed serve as ta - bles where the
3. All are ref - u - gees to - geth - er; all are
4. Stream - ing through the arch - ing gate - way in a
each un - like - ly guest. Bid the hun - gry eat their
guests pre - pare to dine. Jus - tice is their right - eous
wan - d'ers wel - comed home, greet - ed by God's o - pen
bright, ce - les - tial throng, saints from a - ges gone be -
D.C.
fill, and all the wear - y find their rest.
fare while mer - cy is their rich - est wine.
arms, with each u - nique, but none a - lone.
fore us lead the joy - ous ban - quet song:

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 2017; © 2018, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

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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 guest 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.

“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 can 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:

- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- Resources provided through Sermon Series materials

This morning marks the third Sunday of our **Summer Sermon Series: *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion: A Guide to Good Religion for Seekers***. Here is the schedule for the remainder of this unique series:

- Today: *The Answer to Negativity is Hope*
- June 24th: *The Answer to Arrogance is Openness*
- July 8th: *The Answer to Division is Community*
- July 15th: *The Answer to Passivity is Passion*

Yesterday, the 223rd meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) convened in St. Louis, MO. Please be in prayer for all commissioners, staff, and newly-elected moderators, as they tend to the important work of the church over the next week. The Committee on Local Arrangements for the assembly (COLA) has commissioned Mary Louise Bringle to write a hymn text for the assembly. The new hymn ***Draw the Welcome Circle Wider*** incorporates the GA’s theme “*Renewing the Vision: Kindom Building for the Twenty-first Century*” with biblical metaphors, social justice themes, and even a surprising nod to the GA’s location in St. Louis. We will sing this new hymn as our closing hymn this morning, to the familiar BEACH SPRING tune.

We rejoice that our worship today includes the **Welcome of New Members**. Please extend a warm welcome to **Helen and Bill Brown**, who come by Transfer of Letter from Life's Journey United Church of Christ of Burlington.

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 Sandy Cook)

We are in the process of putting together a new in-house **Pictorial Directory**. We are using photographs from the previous directory, unless you indicate otherwise. To view the picture we have on file for you, you may come by the church office and Joy will show it to you, or call Joy and she will send it to you electronically. To submit a new photo, send it to Joy (office@bethanypreschurch.org) or bring a print by so it can be scanned.

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	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Family of Celeste Bayliff Agner	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin	Levi Byrd	Diane Bullis
Betty Boggs	Shirley Lane	Susie Hunley

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.

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, Chip Allen, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for June are **A. J. Campbell** and **Jean Payne**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Tuesday, the 19th:

- 7:00 – “Jesus for President” Book Study

Wednesday, the 20th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 24th:

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

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

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

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