Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

July 13, 2025 – 11:00 am
Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

Road from Jerusalem to Jericho

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: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* — TODD KENDALL (BASED ON A TRADITIONAL ENGLISH MELODY)

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #145:** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* — EDWARD H. PLUMPTRE

Rejoice ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

Refrain
Rejoice! rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe. **(Refrain)**

At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. **(Refrain)**

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King. **(Refrain)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

Christ has set us free
Free to serve
Free to welcome and include
Free to love our neighbors as ourselves

GATHERING PRAYER

(COLOSSIANS 1, LUKE 10)

Loving God, thank you for being present in our lives and in this time of worship.
Speak love to our hearts and wisdom to our minds, that we might grow in your knowledge of love and that our lives might bear the fruit of your knowledge and grace. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FROM THE BELHAR CONFESSION)

We believe

-that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

-that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;

-that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;

-that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #403:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* — JOSEPH M. SCRIVEN

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Our world and our human desires often lead us to oppose God's way.
Before we hear the Word read and proclaimed, let us confess these sins before our God.

Spirit of the Living God, your fruit includes love, peace, patience and kindness but we are a divided, hateful people. We turn to violent means and violent words to settle our disputes. We are impatient with each other and fail to honor your commandment to love. Our idols fascinate and distract us from your rightful path. Forgive us. Turn us from our sinful ways. Set us free in Jesus Christ. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Christ has set us free. Claim your forgiveness. Rejoice in God's grace.
Respond with love. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, Holy God, that we might hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 82 — PEW BIBLE, 730

LUKE 10:25-37 — PEW BIBLE, 1263

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *The Old Rugged Cross* — Alondra Mendez-Davis - Soloist

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"Being a Bystander"*** — RICK PURCELL, CRE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #428:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own* WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***CLOSING HYMN #441:** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* TIMOTHY DWIGHT

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blessed Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of Heaven.

***SENDING**

God, bless us.
Jesus, walk with us.
Holy Spirit, guide us as we enter this new week.
May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Praise Ye the Lord!!* ROGER MOORPARK

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Saturday, August 2nd Shrimp-a-Roo

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 2nd at 6:00 pm for our annual **Shrimp-a-Roo.**
This is a Men of the Church sponsored event for **Bethany family and friends.**
Come enjoy this summertime feast, and table fellowship with your Bethany family and friends!
We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Don't miss it!!

Tuesday, August 5th 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

Tuesday, September 2 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, September 2ndt at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. We will **not** have a meeting in August.

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

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **July**? They are asking for **Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice and Spaghetti.**
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, July 13th – 5th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion & Pennies for Hunger

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

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

Wednesday, July 16th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, July 20th – 6th 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

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27253
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

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*
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – *finance@bethanypreschurch.org*

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