Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

August 3, 2025 – 11:00 am
Eighth Sunday of Pentecost
Communion

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 Spirit, Faithful Guide* — ROBERT HUGHES

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #469:** *Morning Has Broken* — ELEANOR FARJEON

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Announcements

Opening Sentences (based on Psalm 107)

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble;
They cried to the Lord in their trouble, and God delivered them from their distress.
Let us thank the Lord for God's steadfast love,
For God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Gathering Prayer (Psalm 107, Colossians 3, Luke 12)

Spirit of hope and renewal, as the dawn nudges us awake, summon us with your presence.
Wrap us with the cloak of your wisdom and grace.
As your light breaks the horizon this day, help us see the love revealed in your realm.
Nourish us with your wisdom and guide us with your hope, for we hunger to know you better. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*Affirmation of Faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*Hymn of the Day #404: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Thomas Andrew Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near;
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

We are called to love our God with all our heart, mind, strength and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. However, our lives are too often insular and self-absorbed. We have not loved God, our neighbor and ourselves as we should. Let us make a sincere confession before God and others.

God of the risen Christ, you broke the power of sin and evil. Yet we still live in the tombs of forgetfulness, anxiety and fear. We have failed to love you as we should. We have neglected to love our neighbor. In fact, we have even failed to love ourselves. Release us from the tombs that terrify us so we can see your image in one another and in your good creation. Truly, free us from the graves of self-hatred so we can see ourselves as your children. Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace

The mercy of the Lord is sure. In Christ, we are forgiven and set free from the chains that bind us so that we can be Your people. Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the scripture we are about to hear will become God's Word for us today. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 107:1-9, 43 — pew Bible, 731

Luke 12:13-21 — pew Bible, 1266

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Word in Music: *Just As I Am, Without One Plea* — Lynette Maynard

The Word Proclaimed

Sermon: *"Stuffed Barns"* — 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 #539:** *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise* — John Ellerton

Savior, again to Thy dear Name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
We stand to bless Thee ere our worship cease;
And, now departing, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife.
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

*Sending

(based on Colossians 3)

We have been raised with Christ, so strive for what is above, where Christ is, seated at God's right hand.
Set your minds on the things of Christ, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
And put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of our creator,
so that Christ is all and in all! Amen.

Postlude: *Our Refuge and Strength* — Donald F. Callender

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room

On Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom we will start our exercise classes. We will meet weekly to start with and set up additional time for those who cannot meet at this time. Our instructor is Richard Mann, who has certification in senior training, plus several other certifications. The exercises we will be learning are mainly for stretching and strengthening will the goal to help balance and mobility, and to improve overall individual independence.
If you are interested in the classes and have not yet registered, come between 9:30 and 9:45 on Wednesday, prior to the class, to meet Richard and get registered. We are hoping to keep the class at no or little cost to each individual. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

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 **August**? 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, August 3rd – 8th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion & Pennies for Hunger

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

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

Wednesday, August 6th

10:00 – Exercise class - Evie C. Marshall classroom

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, August 10th – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

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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

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