



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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August 25, 2019 – 11:00 am  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



*“When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, ‘Woman, you are set free from your sickness.’ He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God.”*

Luke 13:12-13 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*“The story of the afflicted woman seems to provide a kind of picture of what the ultimate reign of God will be like. Where Jesus is, the kingdom is. Where Jesus is, things begin to be made right. His ministry provides a foretaste of the coming kingdom. In the reign of God, the world will be repaired. There will be no blindness or loss of hearing, no one broken or disfigured. In the reign of God, there will be no conflicts between what is good for one and what is good for all. If this is the ultimate future God is preparing for us, how might we contribute to some manifestation of it wherever we find ourselves? ”*

- from *Feasting on the Word* commentary by Ronald P. Byars

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *His Tender, Loving Care*

D. CALLENDER

### 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:** *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!*

*Taking my sin, my cross, my shame; rising again I bless Your name; you are my all in all.  
Seeking You as a precious jewel; Lord, to give up I'd be a fool; You are my all in all. (Refrain)*

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Before we got up this morning and decided to come to church,

**God was waiting for us, to welcome us with grace.**

When we are unsure of what to do; when we falter before the next step,

**we come to listen to God's voice, to learn from the One who teaches us all we ever need to know.**

When we are surrounded by cruelty and injustice; when our fears cripple our souls,

**God delivers us with steadfast love; we are set free to be God's sons and daughters.**

## \* OPENING HYMN: *Come, Worship God*

O QUANTA QUALIA

*Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor; enter God's presence with thanks and a song!*

*You are the rock of your people's salvation to whom our jubilant praises belong.*

*Ruled by your might are the heights of the mountains; held in your hands are the depths of the earth.*

*Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them, God above all gods, who gave us our birth.*

*We are your people, the sheep of your pasture; you are our Maker, and to you we pray.*

*Gladly we kneel in obedience before you; great is the one whom we worship this day!*

*Now let us listen, for you speak among us; open our hearts to receive what you say.*

*Peace be to all who remember your goodness, trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!*

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, you know us better than we know ourselves. By your word, give us wisdom, by your Spirit grant us healing, and set us free to serve you with love.

**We ask this through the One who heals in your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

**LUKE 13:10-17**

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1269

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Rock of Ages: when we are afraid and can only whisper our fear, yet once more, you bend over to listen to us. When everyone acts as if they can't remember our name, yet once more, you know us as your Beloved. When we cannot seem to tell others all that you have done for us, yet once more, you put the Word into our mouths.

**And we tremble with praise.**

When others would weigh us down with shame and guilt, yet once more, you set us free with your joy. When we are bent over by our doubts and questions, yet once more, you reach out to touch us with your hope and grace.

**And we tremble with praise.**

When we wander from one crippling spirit to the next, yet once more, you lead us into hope. When our fears shake us to the core, yet once more, you touch us with your serenity. When we cannot stand up and see our way, yet once more, you take us by the hand to lead us home.

**And we tremble with praise. Yet once more, we tremble with praise and joy. When we were children, we learned not to touch hot things so we would not be burned. If only avoiding sin was that easy! But sin seems so comfortable, so easy, and so harmless that we cannot stop ourselves from reaching out to touch it over and over again.**

Yet once more, we come to you with our prayers, Holy God. Our crippling spirits keep us from following you. Our grudges weigh us down until we cannot walk straight in your way. Our anger becomes a fire which scorches our friends and loved ones. Our fears blind us to the goodness in those we believe to be different.

**Forgive us, God our Rock, and set us free from our wrong-doings and failures. From the day of our birth, we have known your love, grace, and hope. So may we offer you our joyful thanks, as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, reaches out to touch us with your healing forgiveness, yet once more.**

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God chooses not to turn a deaf ear to us, but to listen to our prayers. God chooses not to shame us, but to save us.  
***This is, indeed, good news for us! We are set free to drink deeply from the waters of life. Thanks be to God! Amen.***

### \* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355: *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!  
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

### \* 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 say what we believe. 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:** *Awesome God / I Exalt Thee*

R. MULLINS / P. SANCHEZ

\* **A DOXOLOGY:** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!  
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.*

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Sometimes a Light Surprises* (see page 4)

IRISH FOLK MELODY

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.***

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND BLESSING OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

### STUDENT'S LITANY

#### CONGREGATIONAL LITANY

O Holy God, the time is come when school begins. As these your children begin their studies, we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry the books and note books, markers and pens and pencils they will use to learn. O Lord of Life and Love,

***Hear our prayer.***

Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days and weeks and months. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children. O Lord of Life and Love,

***Hear our prayer.***

Bless, O God, all school administrators that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion. O Lord of Life and Love,

***Hear our prayer.***

Bless, O God, each one gathered here that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you – in our church school classes for all ages. Grant that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

And bless, O God, these our cherished children, those whom we have promised to love and nurture at their baptism. Keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Grant that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, these backpacks and the children who carry them. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

And bless, O God, these supplies that we have gathered. May those who use them be blessed and be keenly aware of your presence in their lives. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer. Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTING BACKPACK TAGS**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *It is Well With My Soul*

HORATIO STAFFORD / PHILLIP P. BLISS

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

*And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: ***Bending the Rules***

REV. JOHNSON

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

\* **CLOSING HYMN #525:** *Here I Am, Lord*

DANIEL SCHUTTE

\* **SENDING**

Having been welcomed with grace, let us go out this day.

***We will go to serve all of God's children, deciding to meet them where they are.***

Having listened to God's Word, let us go to share what we have learned.

***We will go to stand with those who are uncertain about life, to walk with those who have stumbled on their journey.***

Having been set free by the Spirit let us go to be sisters and brothers with all,

***We will go to release those bound by cruelty and injustice, to bring healing to those crippled by fears.***

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *A Joyous Song of Praise*

S. WESLEY

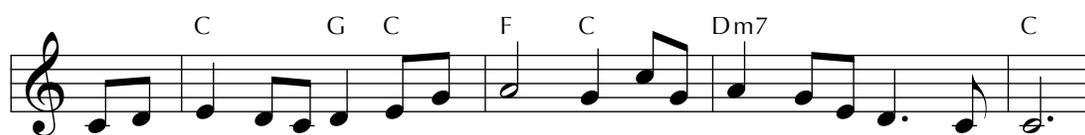
\* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

LAMENT AND LONGING FOR HEALING

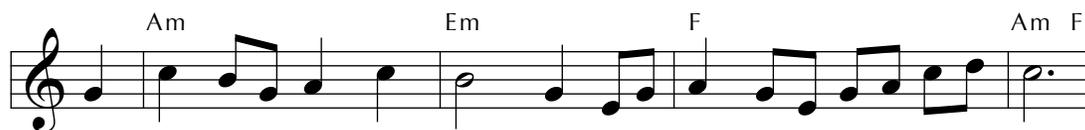
# 800 Sometimes a Light Surprises



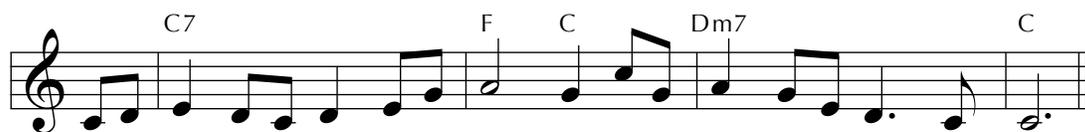
1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;  
 2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue  
 3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;  
 4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;  
 the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;  
 who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;  
 though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,



when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain  
 set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,  
 be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;  
 yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;



a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.  
 "Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."  
 and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.  
 for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.



# 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 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).

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

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))
- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources.

As a new school year approaches, **Blessing of the Backpacks** will be held during worship **this morning**. All students AND teachers are invited to participate in a blessing liturgy.

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 Randy Cousins)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette  
Jack Cook  
Joan Richardson  
Teresa Wilborn  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Jean Berry

Diane Miller  
Peter Slater  
Joey Leake  
Shannon Russell  
Mary Moore  
Barbara Cousins

John & Ann Sutton  
Ruby Martin  
Shirley Lane  
Ida Whitney  
Katherine Turner  
Jeremy Harden

Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson  
Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Katherine Bayliff  
Randy Thompson  
Don Boggs

Pat Kennedy  
Donna Mitchell-Ayers  
Pete Campbell  
Ben Johnson  
Alex Thomas  
Robert Sykes

Anne McDaniels  
Mike Sutton  
Steward Dillard  
Shelvia Russell  
Foy Bayliff  
Ritchie Fishburne  
Glenn Thompson

**TEACH Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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. The Fellowship Class is currently participating in the *Feasting on the Word* summer series.

**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.

We are looking forward to our new **Fall Book Study** which will begin on **Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. This will be a ten-week study, looking at author and theologian Brian McLaren's book, "***A New Kind of Christianity***." We are still waiting on details, but this will probably be an off-campus event, meeting at a local restaurant. Stay tuned!

**SUPPORT Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Ben Russell)

Elders of the Month for August are **Ben Russell** and **Nancy Purcell**

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - *Feasting on the Word* Summer Study Series
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Blessing of the Backpacks

Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup>:

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

### **Session**

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

### **Class of 2019:**

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

### **Class of 2020:**

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

### **Class of 2021:**

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### **Staff**

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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