



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

August 27, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



“After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number.

They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice:

‘Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”

Revelation 7:9-10 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The scenes of praise and celebration in the previous chapters give way to threatening visions. The four horsemen present threats of conquest, violence, economic insecurity, and death. The horsemen portray threats that are real. They were real for people in the first century and remain real for people now. The idea is that the visions strip away the pretensions of security. They point to the deep uncertainties that affect us all.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide*

R. HUGHES

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 #469:** *Morning Has Broken*

BUNESSAN

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise to the Lamb who is seated on the Throne of Heaven!

Praise be to God who offers God's love to us!

Let us sing continually of God's wisdom, and power, and might.

Let our voices be raised in joyful celebration!

Worthy is the Lamb to receive honor, and glory, and majesty.

Let our hearts rejoice at God's redeeming love for us. Let us worship God!

*** HYMN OF PRAISE #477: Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim**

HANOVER

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

With joy we come this day to the house of the Lord. God provides for us abundantly even when we doubt and fear, even when we turn away. God is faithful. Open our hearts today, O Lord, to hear your word for us that we may become faithful disciples of our Lord all our days.

Anger, hatred, anguish blare at us from the newspapers, media. The shouts of hurt and pain harden our hearts, merciful God. We cannot bear the hurts, so we turn away. We hide and want the hurt to disappear.

When we hear the words of the Psalmist singing about the green pastures, still waters, our souls long for this place of peace. We think that it can be found outside ourselves, yet this is a reminder of the peace and hope that your love offers us from within.

We know that we will have struggles and hard times, but help us, Lord, to place our lives in your care, to trust in your comfort and guidance. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your compassionate love. Heal us again and place us on the right path.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Do not fear! We can place our trust in God, for God will lead us, comfort us, protect us. We are not alone to face all the difficulties of life. God is with us and will lift us up. Rejoice, for we are loved by God.

Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen!

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #368: I've Got Peace Like a River**

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in-a my soul. (Repeat)

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul. (Repeat)

*** 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 confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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 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.

*** HYMN OF THE DAY #142: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!**

CORONATION

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *In This Very Room*

* THE DOXOLOGY:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

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. Amen.

DISTRIBUTING BACKPACK TAGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *I Love to Tell the Story*

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

The Word in Music: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

RUNYON / CLYDESDALE

*“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!*

*Summer, winter, springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*He'll bring pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
His own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

THE SPOKEN WORD

A Reading from Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1495

SERMON: *GETTING PAST TILT*

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (see next page)

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

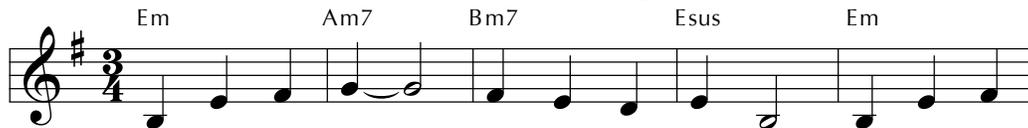
* **POSTLUDE:** *Morning Song*

J. DENTON

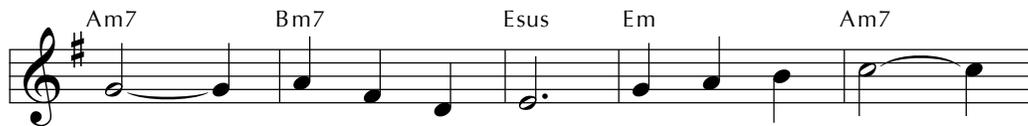
* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

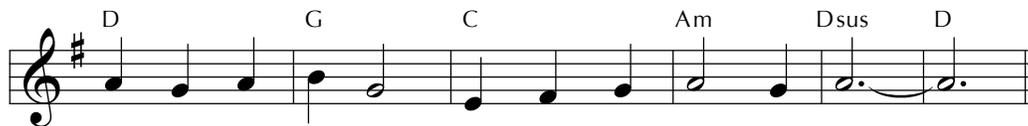
Christ, Be Our Light



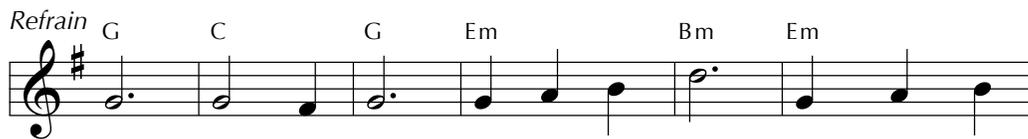
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



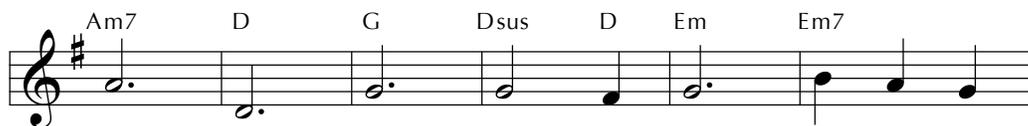
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



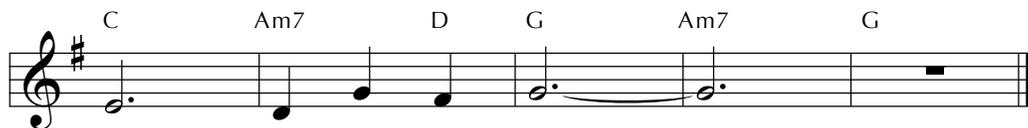
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

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:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *Revelation: DVD Teaching Series* – Dr. Brian Blount
- *Revelation* commentary – Dr. Brian Blount

This morning we continue our four-week **Sermon Series on Revelation**. Note the passages and themes:

- Today: Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17 – *Getting Past Tilt*
- September 3rd: Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5 – *Better City, Better Life*

Our year-long 125th Anniversary Celebration didn't end with our wonderful celebration at the end of May. As has been noted before our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, **Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher**. Mark your calendars for our final celebration events:

- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

Invitations to the culmination of our anniversary celebration at the end of September were mailed out recently. If you did not receive one, or know of someone who needs to be on the list, please see Tina Patterson.

Tickets for the David LaMotte concert are now available. There is no charge for the concert, but tickets are required. You may obtain tickets from the church office, or by visiting our website. Donations of any amount are appreciated at the door. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

Attention all school-age children and youth: This morning our worship will include the **Blessing of the Backpacks**. At the designated time in the service, you will be invited to come forward with your backpack to receive a blessing. Please come forward even if you didn't bring your backpack to church!

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.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.

- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

This morning we welcome our new **Nursery Worker, Stephanie Ramos**, who will be with us on a consistent basis through the end of the year. Stop by the nursery and say hello!

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elder: Jean Payne)

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	Family of Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Family of Duffy Strigo
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods	Pete Campbell
Shelvia Russell	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	Carolyn Thompson

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **Jamestown Presbyterian; Shady Side Presbyterian, Lexington**. Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

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.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the *Wired Word* curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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.

It's not too late to join us for our new **Book Study on Rob Bell's latest *What Is the Bible?***. Our first gathering will be **this Tuesday, August 29th at 7:00** here at the church. See John if you would like to join!

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elder of the Month for August is **Brandon Troxler**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- Revelation Sermon Series III
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Tuesday, the 29th:

- 7:00 – “What is the Bible?” Book Study

Wednesday, the 30th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 3rd:

- Revelation Sermon Series IV
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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Staff

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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