



Bethany Presbyterian Church

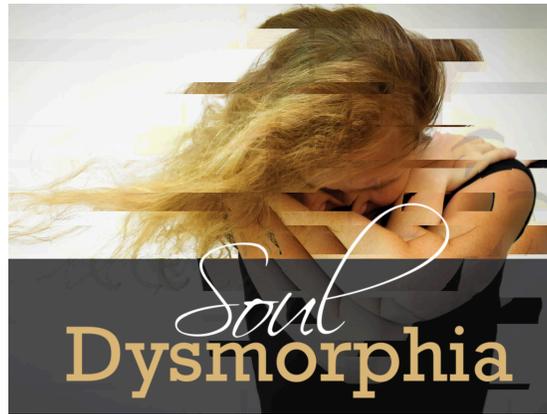
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 1, 2019 – 11:00 am

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



“When you host a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can’t repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”
Luke 14:12-14 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“In a selfie-oriented world in which people often want to look their best, some are digitally altering their faces and bodies using airbrushes, apps and filters. The glamorized version of themselves on the internet bears only a slight resemblance to their real-world appearance. This disconnect now has a clinical name: Snapchat dysmorphia. But what happens when that disconnect between the real and the virtual spills over into our spiritual lives? We call that Soul dysmorphia.”

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

F. C. MAKER

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:** *Lord, Who May Dwell within Your House* (see page 4)

CHRISTOPHER WEBBER / ROY HOPP

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship our God, to listen to the One who calls us here.

We come trusting God to lead us in the coming days, as surely as were our grandparents in the faith.

We come to worship our God, to shout with joy to the God of all people.

We come to the Creator of all things, to be bathed in the waters of life.

We come to the Feast of God’s faithful, to be fed by the One who never forsakes us.

We come to worship our God, to sing aloud to the One who saves us.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Wisdom, open us to the work of your Spirit,
that we may hear and respond to your holy Word. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 14:1, 7-14

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1270

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Yesterday, when our hunger for hope had so weakened us we could barely speak, you fed us with the Bread of life, spread with the sweet honey of your grace.

Today, when we look for you in the powerful and the rich, among the superstar and celebrity, we will find you seated with the children, your knees squeezed painfully under the table, entertaining them with your stories.

Tomorrow, when we will be scrambling for the seats of honor, you will be in the kitchen cooking dinner for the prisoners; making up the guest room for the immigrants; singing lullabies of love to the lost children of our world.

God in Community, Holy in One: yesterday, today, tomorrow, always, we will pray with full hearts

Despite all the ways we speak of sin - failures, mistakes, intended acts, Scripture tells us that we are stubborn-hearted, wanting only our way. But if we pause to listen to God, if we open our mouths (and our hearts) to confess our sin, God will fill our emptiness with forgiveness and hope.

We are always uncomfortable when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance.

Forgive us, O God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Lord and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news: after what God has done for us, what can anyone or any thing do to us? We are new people, graced by our loving God.

Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by our God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

TRADITIONAL

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. (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 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: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

W. B. BRADBURY

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #438:** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

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

HORATIO STAFFORD / PHILLIP P. BLISS

TINA PATTERSON & GLENN PATTERSON, SOLOISTS

*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: *Soul Dystormphia*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #483:** *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

* **SENDING**

Having listened to God's words, we are sent to serve others.

Today and tomorrow, we will follow where God leads.

Having joined in songs of praise and hope, we will carry these gifts into the world.

Today and tomorrow, we will serve beside Jesus.

Having been filled with the Spirit of justice, we will go to be with all who struggle.

Today and tomorrow, we will bring justice and peace to those around us.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

S. WESLEY

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Lord, Who May Dwell within Your House

419

(Psalm 15)

Capo 1: (A7) (D) (Bm7) (G) (Bm) (A7)
 B^b7 E^b Cm7 A^b Cm B^b7



1 Lord, who may dwell with - in your house or
 2 Who have no guile up - on their tongues nor
 3 Who do no wrong, but keep their word and

(D) (Bm7) (A) (A7) (G) (D)
 E^b Cm7 B^b B^b7 A^b E^b



on your ho - ly hill? Those who do good and
 harm their neigh - bor's life, but hon - or those who
 seek no bribe or gain. All those who do such

(G) (A) (D) (Bm) (A7) (D)
 A^b B^b E^b Cm B^b7 E^b



speak the truth, whose lives are blame - less still;
 fear the Lord and turn a - way from strife;
 things shall live and safe from harm re - main.



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; on Facebook at 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.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources.

We are looking forward to our new **Fall Book Study** which will begin on **Monday, September 9th**. This will be a ten-week study, looking at author and theologian Brian McLaren’s book, ***“A New Kind of Christianity.”*** We will be gathering each Monday evening at **6:30 pm at Burlington Beer Works** in downtown Burlington. We have a private room reserved, and participants are invited to dine and discuss - feast and fellowship - as you so desire. Books are approximately \$10.00 each and can be ordered on Amazon. **Please register in the church office or online at our website NO LATER THAN NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH**. See John if you have any questions.

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

Diane Miller
Peter Slater

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin

Joan Richardson
Teresa Willborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Family of Don Boggs

Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Robert Sykes
Janie Holt Clapp

Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
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.

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

Elders of the Month for September are **Randy Cousins** and **Jean Payne**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 4th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 8th:

- 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



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

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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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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