



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 6, 2020 – 11:00 am
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*“Though my life is constantly in danger, I won’t forget your Instruction.
Though the wicked have set a trap for me, I won’t stray from your precepts.
Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart’s joy.
I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.”*
Psalm 119:109-112 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God of this and every morning, as I begin this day, call my name; as I step into this day, guide my feet; as I live this day, care for those I love; as I learn this day, teach me your ways. In Jesus’ name. Amen. - From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2 (p. 150). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

ROBERT LOWRY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*(Please take a moment to **socially distantly** share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

* **GATHERING SONG:** *Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet*

AMY GRANT

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

*When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

When we lose our way and wander in the darkness,

God leads us on the path homeward.

When we stray from the path we know; when our journey takes us to unfamiliar places,

Jesus welcomes us home.

When our hearts yearn for familiar places; when our spirits long for direction,

The Holy Spirit fills our heart with truth and purpose, leading us home.

Our wanderings have brought us back to each other, to this place, to this home.

Thanks be to God!

*** OPENING HYMN #461: *God Is Here!***

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.*

*Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.*

*Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.*

*Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.*

*Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.*

*Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.*

*Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.*

*Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

PSALM 119:97-112

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Gracious God, thank You for Your written Word, which provides us with such strength for today and great hope for tomorrow. As we step out into the darkness of this fallen world, we pray that Your Word would truly lighten the way we take and lead us in the path of righteousness.

Help us to hide its truths in our hearts and may we be ready and willing to follow Your will for our lives, as we face the difficulties and trials that lies ahead, in the strength of Your mighty power. Thank You for Your Word of light and truth in this dark world.

Thank You for Your written Word which only points to Your Living Word . . . our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank You that all that we need for life, health and wholeness is found in Him - the living Word of God.

We delight to meditate on You Lord Jesus, and drink deeply from the life-giving truths that are contained in You, for the Psalmist truly stated that knowing You is more precious than gold and trusting You for salvation is sweeter than honey to the taste – for which we praise Your wonderful name.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

We rejoice that when we feel afraid and think we've lost our way, still God is there right beside us. We rejoice that we have nothing to fear through the promise that God is near to us to the ends of the earth, lighting our path for every step we take.

In forgiveness, we are given the words to speak; the courage to reach out to others; the open heart to offer others, the breath of life to share with those around us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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)

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY:

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *We Lift Our Voices*

DWIGHT LILES

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives: they are yours: we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Word of God Speak*

JOHN HUSBAND

TINA PATTERSON, SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Finding Our Way Home***

REV. JOHNSON

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION #280:** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE STORY (WORDS OF INSTITUTION)

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you . . . With the church throughout the world, with all who love Jesus and honor his name, we praise you, singing the hymn of your everlasting glory:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Yes, blessed is he . . . And let that same Spirit stir our souls so that as we share this sacrament, we may recognize our Lord and receive him that he may be in us and we in him forever. And when your Spirit comes at the end of all time and space, gather us with our sisters and brothers around the Table of grace and wonder where we will be filled with the Spirit's breath so we can sing your praises for all eternity, and pray as Christ taught us:

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.

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me; Blood of Christ, inebriate me; Water from the side of Christ, wash me; Passion of Christ, strengthen me; O good Jesus hear me; Within your wounds hide me; separated from you, let me never be; From the evil one protect me; At the hour of my death, call me; And close to you bid me; That with your saints, I may be praising you forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

*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 and winter, and 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.
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!
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
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!*

* SENDING

The faithfulness of our gracious God has brought us home.

We will go to fill the emptiness of others, and to bring others home to God.

The amazing grace of God led us to find our way home.

We will go to share that amazing grace with all who seek to find their way home.

We have been led home by the Word that lights our path.

We will shine the light of the Holy Spirit so that others may see a clear path home.

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE: *Revive Us Again*

BART MILLARD / PETE KIPLEY

* Please stand in body or spirit.



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.

“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.**

This morning we welcome our pastor Rev. John W. Johnson back from his 3-month sabbatical! In welcoming John back, we offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Commissioned Ruling Elder Rick Purcell for his leadership and guiding presence over the past three months!

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. A **Video Recording** of our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *A Wee Worship Book* (Wild Goose Publications)
- *Call to Worship* worship resources (PCUSA)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

Post-Sabbatical Sermon Series: Beginning next Sunday, John will begin a six-week sermon series, sharing insights that he has gleaned through his sabbatical focus of study - The Digital Church. There is also a study component of this series, as those who are interested are invited to gather each Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour for a lively discussion of the book on which this series is based: *“Digital Disciple: Real Christianity in a Virtual World.”* The book is available on Amazon. Here are the themes for each Sunday during the series:

- Sunday, September 13th: *The Digital Church: Virtual People*
- Sunday, September 20th: *The Digital Church: From Connection to Communion*
- Sunday, September 27th: *The Digital Church: Remote Intimacy*
- Sunday, October 4th: *The Digital Church: Empty Minds and Disposable Bodies*
- Sunday, October 11th: *the Digital Church: Googling Prayer*
- Sunday, October 18th: *The Digital Church: Tech Sabbath*

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Willborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas

Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley

Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

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.

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.

Join us beginning on **Thursday, September 10th** for a new fall **Bethany Book Club**, as we engage in a discussion of the prominent issue of racism, and our response as followers of Christ. We will be reading and discussing the book ***Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race***, by Debby Irving. The book is available on Amazon. This study will be offered both in-person here at the church and virtually via Zoom. Watch your email for the Zoom link.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for September are **Karen Maxwell** and **Tracey Troxler**.



This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 11:00 - Worship

Tuesday, the 8th:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 9th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Thursday, the 10th:

- 7:00 - *Waking Up White* book study

Sunday, the 13th:

- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series I - The Digital Church: Virtual People

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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