



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

September 8, 2019 – 11:00 am  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*“Yes, brother, I want this favor from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. I’m writing to you, confident of your obedience and knowing that you will do more than what I ask.”*  
Philemon 1:20-21 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*“Karthik Nemmani, a 14-year-old boy from Texas, won the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee by spelling the word ‘koinonia.’ It’s a Greek word. It appears in the New Testament many times. In his letter to Philemon, the apostle Paul writes, ‘I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ’ (v. 6). In the original Greek, Paul uses the word ‘koinonia’: ‘... the koinonia of your faith may become effective ...’ Can we spell “koinonia”?”*

### 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:** *God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN / JOHN BELL

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the presence of God:

***who knows us when we wake up and when we go to sleep, and in all the moments in between.***

We gather in the house of God:

***who has created a family for us, here as well as in every corner of our world.***

We gather to be the people of God:

***who appeals to us to follow in love, in faith, in service.***

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy and merciful God, we have come to hear your word. Help us to bear it. Break down in us all that resists your will and plant in us a willingness to turn, for we would live; we would be your disciples.

***By your Spirit, come to us, now, in ancient texts, in everyday visions, in the need of our neighbor; we pray in the name of Jesus our light. Amen.***

### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

#### PHILEMON 1-21

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1454

This is the Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Boundless Shaper of people and nations, you are beyond our knowing, yet closer to us than our every breath. You are before us and behind us, surrounding us with your love, and fashioning all of creation in the secret depths of your heart.

***With every thought, with every song, and with every prayer, turn these fragile, earthen vessels of our lives, into the Spirit-filled body of Christ.***

God of our lives, you search us and know us. We have refused to take up your cross, to bear the burdens that are ours to carry. We have not given up our attachments to possessions or to self.

***We have not counted the cost of walking into an unknown future with you. Help us turn away from evil, that we may walk with you once more.***

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The Holy One rejoices in our repentance, reshaping us into vessels of love and service.

***In the grace-filled love of Christ, we are forgiven. 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 #473:** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

**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: ***How Do You Spell "Koinonia"?***

REV. JOHNSON

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

**\* CLOSING HYMN #485:** *To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY / CROSBY/DOANE

**\* SENDING**

It is God who has formed us as a community of faith.  
***Now, we will go to find and serve our sisters and brothers.***  
It is Jesus who has knit us together as partners in grace.  
***Now, we will go to bear the burdens of those around us.***  
It is the Spirit who gives us the words we need.  
***Now, we will go to speak for justice and hope for all.***

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

S. WESLEY

*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*

# God Welcomes All

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God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN

4.4.9



# *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.

We are looking forward to our new **Fall Book Study** which will begin **tomorrow evening, Monday, September 9<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 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 TODAY.** 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)

**The Session** will meet for its stated monthly meeting on **this Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

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

Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup>:

- 6:30 - Fall Book Study

Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 15<sup>th</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

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

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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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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