



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 9, 2018 – 11:00 am
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*"But she answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."
"Good answer!" he said. "Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter."
When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone."
Mark 7:28-30 (CEB)*

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

This morning's text contains a remarkable exchange between Jesus and a woman. It's remarkable because Jesus' "sparring partner" is: a) a woman, b) a Gentile and c) a person whom Jesus appears to insult. What's happening here?

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE

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 is Calling Through the Whisper*

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

*God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.*

Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:

God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

*God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.*

Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:

God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Here, in this place, we will not be afraid to sing the good news.

We will praise our God, now and always.

Here, with these people, we will not fear in living the good news.

We will walk with Jesus, as he comes with justice in his hands.

Here, in these moments, we will not be scared to tell the good news.

We will be open to all the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst.

* OPENING HYMN: *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* (see page 4)

HOLY MANNA

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

The universe proclaims God's truth. God's knowledge flows night and day!

We open our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, our hearts to receive.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

MARK 7:24-37

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1225

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

On your holy road, those blinded by fear will see hope; those deafened by doubt's cries will hear grace; those who have only crumbs will be filled with love.

On your holy road, bullies will become mentors for those they tormented; those who can't find the right words will compose songs of wonder; those who trip over their worries will dance in the streets.

On your holy road, those convinced of their ways will learn to change their minds; those whose hearts are barren deserts will bloom with bouquets of laughter; those who have buried faith under a mound of words will see it resurrected in compassion for others.

We long to journey on your holy road, God in Community, Hearts united.

So many choices, and we make the wrong ones; so many paths to take, and we go down the wrong ones; so much good we could do, and all we do is offer empty words. Let us bring our lives and hearts to our God, who is our help and hope, in this and every moment.

We say that we are good listeners, but we turn stopped up ears to the vulnerable around us. We say that we live as your people, but too often, put ourselves ahead of the people we love. We say that we are people of faith, but then try to overwhelm people with words, rather than acts of service.

We say so much, that we cannot hear you calling us to faithful living. Have mercy on us and send us out to offer kindness to the lonely. Have mercy on us and send us to be generous with the love you offer.

Have mercy on us, so we might be open to all the chances we will have to follow, and to serve alongside our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Whisper it. Say it. Shout it. Sing it! Our God comes with justice, not judgment; with hope, not a heavy hand; with grace, not grudges. This is the good news for us.

We will not be scared to tell anyone, and everyone, of our God who overflows with mercy, who sets us free, who watches over 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 burdens down. (Repeat)
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)
Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY

* THE DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF THE DAY #367: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

GHANAIAN FOLD MELODY

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

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Sparring Partners***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #466: *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

GATHERING

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship 396

1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.
2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis-ter aid - ed him.
3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?
Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?
Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.
Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.
Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!
Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.

Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.
Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.



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 guest 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 this morning’s worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)

Make your plans to join us **today following worship**, for a delicious **Spaghetti Luncheon**, prepared by and sponsored by our youth as a fund-raising project for youth activities throughout the year, but especially the Montreat Youth Conference. Your donations will be appreciated!

Mark your calendars for a delicious **Fifth Sunday Breakfast on September 30th!**

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in honor of **Barbara Sinclair** on her birthday, by **Guy Sinclair**.

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 Sandy Cook)

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
Shirley Lane	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	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Levi Byrd	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin	Betty Boggs	Alex Thomas
Katherine Turner	Glenn Thompson	Susie Hunley
Joan Richardson	Katherine Bayliff	Bill Abplanalp

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.

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 Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for September are **Sandy Cook** and **Ron Osborne**.

Did you know . . . that the cost of maintaining our buildings (main buildings, rec building, and manse) for one week is \$288.94?

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 12:00 – Spaghetti Lunch

Monday, the 10th:

- 7:00 – Generosity Team (Stewardship)

Tuesday, the 11th:

- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 12th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 16th:

- Directory Pictures made before and after worship
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

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love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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