



Bethany Presbyterian Church

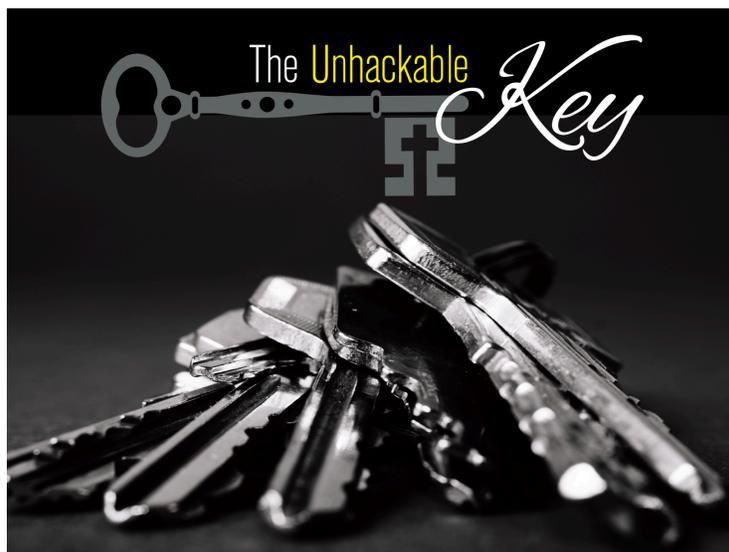
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 10, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*“Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask,
then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you.*

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

Matthew 18:19-20 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Hackers recently shut down a hotel’s electronic key system, thus locking all the guests out of their rooms. The problem was fixed only when the hotel paid the hackers a fee. This could not have happened, of course, with a simple metal key still widely in use in places other than hotels. The Bible refers to keys, but assigns to these keys a different function. In today’s passage we learn how to use the right keys to resolve conflicts in the church.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Rock of Ages*

E. BROUGHTON / TUNE: TOPLADY

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:** *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

HOLY MANNA

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Give thanks to God with all your hearts.

We will hold nothing back from our God.

Sing full-throated praises to our God.

We will join in the chorus of thanksgiving for God's abiding love.

Glorify God and that Word we know as Jesus Christ.

We will worship our God with wonder and joy.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE #118: *The Day of Resurrection!***

LANCASHIRE

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Liberating God: you set us free from our loneliness by the touch of another's hand; you deliver us from our selfishness, so we may be of service to others; you break the chains of our pride, so we might walk with you in humility.

Christ of love, when we would cling to our anger, you send forgiveness to take us by the hand; when we would snack on our bitterness, you share the Bread of heaven; when we would drink from sin's fountain, you pour out the Cup of salvation.

Spirit of new life: you gather us together in God's school to teach us how to live together, to love together, to serve together, so that those around us might know that you are in their midst.

God in Community, Holy in One, fill us with your wisdom as we pray.

In worship and at work, in life and in loss, now and in every moment, Christ is among us: loving us, teaching us, and hoping to lead us. But we focus on those needs, on those desires that keep us from recognizing him. Let us confess all that we have done against God and others, as we pray:

All you ask of us is to love one another, and you are more than willing to teach us how. Yet we find this simple request so hard to carry out, this easy lesson so difficult to learn. Forgive us, Merciful God, and unclasp our hands from our grudges. With Christ in our midst, we can become the people you dream about: loving, merciful, gentle, and compassionate people of God.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

2, 3, 30, 300 - we have gathered as God's people: broken, we are made whole; alone, we are welcomed into a family; forgiven, we are sent to serve.

Forgiven, restored, loved. This place is our constant reminder of God's presence in our lives, of God's grace which makes us new in every moment. 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 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:** *God, How Can We Forgive* (see page 4)

LEONI

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Ave Maria*

F. SCHUBERT

ALONDRA MENDEZ, SOLOIST

(English Translation)

Hail Mary, full of grace, Mary, full of grace, Mary, full of grace,

Hail, Hail, the Lord / The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed, Blessed is the fruit of thy womb,

Thy womb, Jesus. Hail Mary!

* **THE DOXOLOGY:**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet*

AMY GRANT / MICHAEL W. SMITH

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.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Total Praise*

RICHARD SMALLWOOD

ALONDRA MENDEZ AND SYLVESTER ALLEN, SOLOISTS

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills,

Knowing my help is coming from You.

Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.

You are the strength of my life.

I lift my hands in total praise to You. Amen.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Unhackable Key*

Text: Matthew 18:15-20

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1195

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #376:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRODOL

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *God of Glory*

S. SCOTT

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

FORGIVENESS

445 God, How Can We Forgive

1 God, how can we for-give when bonds of love are torn?
2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an-guish flow,
3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an-oth-er's sin,

How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?

When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.



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)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)

Our year-long 125th Anniversary Celebration is just two weeks away! 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.

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.

Our new **Nursery Worker is 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	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods	Shelvia Russell
	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	

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: **Sparta Presbyterian; St. Paul Presbyterian, Greensboro; First Presbyterian, Pilot Mountain; Rev. Nancy Williams-Berry, Chaplain, Presbyterian Homes.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

Please note that **Presbyterian Women Circles** will resume meeting in this week. **Circle #4**, which usually meets on the first Monday, will meet on the second Monday, September 11th so as not to conflict with Labor Day. **Circles #1 and #3** will also meet on next Monday, September 11th.

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.

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

Elders of the Month for September are **Ron Osborne and Jean Payne**.

The Bethany NEXT Work Group will meet **tomorrow evening, Monday, the 11th at 7 pm** here at the church.

The Session will meet for its monthly stated meeting **this Tuesday, the 12th at 7 pm**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 11th:

- 10:00 – Circle #4
- 7:00 – Circle #1 & 3
- 7:00 – Bethany NEXT Work Group

Tuesday, the 12th:

- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 13th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 17th:

- 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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