



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 16, 2018 – 11:00 am

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



“People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

James 3:7-8 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Social media platforms like Twitter make it easy to say something you might later regret, but you also have a chance to “take it back” by deleting it. Even then, sometimes the damage is done before it can be controlled. Of course, there’s no “delete” button when speaking to someone in person. Better to control your speech before it’s spoken, as James advises.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *He Leadeth Me*

T. BLISS / W. BRADBURY

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 #324:** *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

* CALL TO WORSHIP

On this morning, as every morning,
we are surrounded by God’s grace.

In these moments, as every moment,

we are called to costly discipleship by Jesus.

Throughout this day, as every day,

we are taught peace and hope by the Spirit.

* **OPENING HYMN:** *Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)* (see page 4)

KELVINGROVE

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:

JAMES 3:1-12

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1471

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Open our ears, Teacher of souls, so that we might hear the cries of the hungry and feed them, the loneliness of the unloved and embrace them, the songs of little children and learn them.

Give us the words we need, Teacher of justice, so that we might challenge the powerful and callous, so that we work to bring together families separated by fear, so that we might speak out when everyone else is silent.

Strengthen our hearts, Teacher of hope, so that we might sustain the weary, not just with words, but with our friendship; so that we might not hide but face down cruelty with kindness and mercy.

Morning by morning, day by day, continue to teach us your ways.

What are folks saying about us? Do they mention our kindness, or how hard we are on others; do they speak of our love, or about our selfishness? God invites us to follow Jesus and reflect him in our lives.

All we need to do is open our mouths, Teacher of hearts, to show that we give our tongues free rein. We claim we love others but speak bitter words to them. We think we are good and gracious people, but hurl epithets at those we do not like, or those we fear. We are quicker to speak of judgment for others, rather than being voices for justice.

But with your gracious mercy you can put out the wildfires of bitterness sparked by our words. You can stop the words on the tips of our tongues and transform them into whispers of peace and love. You can open our ears so that we can hear all that your Teacher of grace and hope, Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us, in these moments and all those to come.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Can we handle it – the good news; the fact that God's grace can transform us; that God can teach us new songs; that God can fill us with hope and joy?

It is hard to believe, which may be why it is hard to accept it. But God loves us, God has mercy on us, God is with us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

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

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)

TRADITIONAL

* 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: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

F. RITTER / TUNE: CORONATION

* THE DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

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 #335:** *Though I May Speak*

O WALY WALY

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: *A Jubilant Song*

ALLEN POTE

Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.

Rejoice and sing and let the earth be glad,

Let the heavens be filled with joy and a jubilant song.

Sing alleluia to the Lord, alleluia, alleluia;

Tell of His salvation from day to day.

Shout His marvelous works among the people,

For great is the Lord, great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were made, or the land and the sea were born,

From age to age you are God, and we pray for the coming of your Kingdom.

We shall rejoice, we shall be glad all the days of our lives

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Taming Your Tweet***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #371:** *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

* **CHARGE AND BENECTION**

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.



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.

“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 **Brandon Troxler**. 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)

Mark your calendars for a delicious **Fifth Sunday Breakfast** two weeks from today, **September 30th at 9:00 am.**

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
Faye Campbell
Frances Nolan
Shirley Lane

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell

Ida Whitney
Rachel Poteat
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Ruby Martin
Katherine Turner
Katherine Bayliff

Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Levi Byrd
Betty Boggs
Randy Thompson

Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Ruth Younts
Alex Thomas
Susie Hunley
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

Monday, the 17th:

- 7:00 – Generosity Team (Stewardship)

Tuesday, the 18th:

- 7:00 – Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday, the 19th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 23rd:

- 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

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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