



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

September 17, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



*“Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?’ Jesus said, ‘Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.’”*

Matthew 18:21-22 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Living life on this planet together is not easy for us human beings. People hurt each other – sometimes intentionally, sometimes unknowingly. We are all too familiar with the endless cycle of pain, hatred and violence that is created when hurt feelings and resentments are unresolved and are allowed to fester and grow. May we open our hearts to the power of forgiveness.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *This is My Father’s World*

F. SHEPPARD / ARR. P. L. HARRIS

### 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 #400:** *When We Are Living*

SOMOS DEL SENOR

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

***Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!***

Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

***Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.***

Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

***Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all. Let us worship God!***

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE #446: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken***

AUSTRIAN HYMN

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

We sing and speak your praise, O God, grateful for the many ways in which you have healed us. Keep our hearts, our minds, and our spirits open to learn ways in which we can offer healing love for others.

***Just like Peter, Lord, we want to get all “legalistic” about forgiveness. We want to know if one time to forgive someone is sufficient. We might even be willing to extend forgiveness twice, but we have a tendency to follow the adage, “Once burned, twice shy.”***

Teach us to be humble and merciful. Remind us of the many ways in which you have offered, time and time again, your forgiving love to us. Heal our wounds and bind up our brokenness. For we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD’S GRACE

In the name of Jesus Christ, each one of us has received healing mercies. We are now given opportunities to offer forgiveness and redemption to one another.

***May the peace of Jesus Christ be with us all. And may we hear once again the glorious good news that in Jesus Christ we are a forgiven people! 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 #298: *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy***

IN BABILONE

### AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** *Children of the Heavenly Father*

E. BROUGHTON (BASED ON TRYGGARE KAN ENGIN VARA)

**\* 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:** *Make a Joyful Noise*

R. WISE

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all ye lands.  
If you have joy, then make a joyful noise.  
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.*

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: *The Power of Forgiveness*  
Text: Matthew 18:21-35

REV. JOHNSON  
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1195

## LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

**\* CLOSING HYMN #281:** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* POSTLUDE:** *Praise Him! Praise Him!*

C. ALLEN / ARR. C. BOYLES

*Those who are able may 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. 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).

**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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- *Homiletics Online* website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))

**Our year-long 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** is **NEXT SUNDAY!** 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 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** ([www.davidlamotte.com](http://www.davidlamotte.com))
- **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

**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.

**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	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	Shelvia Russell

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](http://www.salempresbytery.org). On the prayer list for this week are: **Pleasant Grove Presbyterian, Yanceyville; El Buen Pastor New Church Development, Winston-Salem; UKirk, Elon University College Ministries.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

**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.**

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – “What is the Bible?” Book Study

Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>:**

- **7:00 – DAVID LAMOTTE CONCERT**

**Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup>:**

- **125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
- **9:45 – Sunday School for all ages**
- **11:00 – WORSHIP / REV. J. HERBERT NELSON, PREACHING**
- **12:30 – ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON**

### 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

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

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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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