



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 24, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

125th Anniversary Celebration Sunday



GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship! Join in with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength . . . don't hold back! Sing from your toes! Pray from your guts. Worship the Eternal Creator from your soul. It's not about perfect music. It's not about the perfect prayer. It's about joining the holy roar of a community honestly wrestling with what it means to follow their Creator.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Revive Us Again*

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:** *We Have Come Together This Day*

W. BARNETT

[Choir only]

We have come together this day to praise the Lord our God

We have come together this day to hear his Holy word proclaimed

For He is worthy to receive all praise and glory, worthy to receive all our praise

(Repeat)

I am so glad I'm here, so glad I'm here, so glad I'm here in Jesus' name (Repeat)

[All]

I'm going to sing while I'm here, Sing while I'm here, Sing while I'm here in Jesus's name (Repeat)
I'm going to pray while I'm here, Pray while I'm here, Pray while I'm here in Jesus's name (Repeat)
I'm going to shout while I'm here, Shout while I'm here, Shout while I'm here in Jesus's name

[Choir only]

We have come together this day to praise the Lord our God
We have come together this day to hear his Holy word proclaimed
For He is worthy to receive all praise and glory, worthy to receive all our praise
We have come together this day to praise the Lord!

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord!

Praise the Lord! Give thanks to God!

Across the years, God has nurtured and fed us.

God has shown us undeserved grace.

Throughout time, God has been revealed in Word and Sacrament.

God has empowered us with the Holy Spirit.

As stewards of God's church, God has called us to be witnesses in the world.

God has placed us in loving fellowship with one another.

Praise the Lord for 125 years! Praise God for 125 more!

Praise the Lord forevermore! Oh, praise the name of the Lord!

*** HYMN OF PRAISE #461: *God Is Here!***

ABBOTT'S LEIGH

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,

Hear our prayer.

For the church universal, and for this congregation of your people,

We give you thanks, O God.

For this place in which we gather for praise and prayer, witness and service, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord,

We give you thanks, O God.

For your presence among us whenever your Word has been proclaimed, your sacramental gifts of bread and cup shared,

We give you thanks, O God.

For those who have been made your children by adoption and grace, who in this place were cleansed of sin, bathed with Christ in the waters of baptism, and raised to new and eternal life,

We give you thanks, O God.

For disciples young and old who have been nurtured here in faith,

We give you thanks, O God.

For all who have come here asking your blessing in marriage, seeking to love with your love,

We give you thanks, O God.

For deacons, elders, and pastors who have led and loved us, and by the offering of their gifts, equipped us for the work of ministry,

We give you thanks, O God.

For faithful stewards among us who have lived for others, serving you by loving neighbors,

We give you thanks, O God.

For all the saints who have stood among us, whose memory still enlivens our faith and emboldens our witness,

We give you thanks, O God.

For the ministries of worship and mission, nurture and fellowship, and for all whose lives have been touched by them,

We give you thanks, O God. Receive our gratitude, Holy God, for the years through which you have led us, and open us to the future you promise. In the years that lie ahead, grant us your encouragement in the work of ministry, your consolation in our defeats, and your challenge to our complacency. Give us such trust in your abiding Holy Spirit, that we may find joy and peace in our common life, strength and courage to live in the world for your reign, and hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

We continue to believe that we must earn our way into God's heart. But God's grace is given to each of us, for all of us, freely, unconditionally, always. Let us open our lives to this mercy as we pray saying:

It seems we cannot decide how we should live. We say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our needs. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not take him to work, school, home. We believe that the gospel can transform lives, (at least, for those who need it – but surely, not us). Forgive us.

Instead of grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace. Instead of continual complaining, may we carry compassion to the hurting. Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news: there is no ranking in God's kingdom. God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, restoration, new life.

God has kept the covenant. We have been forgiven, we have been made new people. 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)

WORDS OF GREETINGS FROM SALEM PRESBYTERY

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**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MOMENT FOR MISSION AND MESSAGE IN MUSIC

DAVID LAMOTTE

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: *The Joy of the Lord*

M. DOURoux

*If you've come into this house with discouragement
If you come into this house looking for contentment
Let me tell you how I've made it
How the Lord brought me through
The joy of the Lord is my strength.*

*If you've come into this house with a broken heart
If you've come into this house not knowing where to start
Let me tell you how I've made it
How the Lord brought me through
The joy of the Lord is my strength.*

*So come into this house and sing Hallelujah
So come into this house with lifted hands of praise
There is joy in this house
There is joy in this house
The joy of the Lord is my strength*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: **TBA**

Text: TBA

REV. DR. J. HERBERT NELSON, II

PEW BIBLE, PAGE

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION #507:** *I Come with Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

WE SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Gathered round a table is where Jesus so often met people . . .

. . . gathered round the table of Matthew, the table of Zacchaeus, the table of Simon, the table of Peter, the table of Lazarus, and Martha and Mary . . .

. . . gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories, share their laughter.

And here, we are gathered round a table because this is where Jesus has promised to be for those who want to meet him.

So, accept his invitation and feel welcome at this table. Jesus Christ, who here offers us a foretaste of eternal life, invites us to be his guests.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise . . . So we gladly celebrate your life, as in concert with the church in heaven and earth, we join the song of your unending praise.

(Sung)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Oh, Holy Jesus, it is not by virtue that we are here . . . enable us to know you more deeply and resolve to love, honor and serve you more faithfully in all the world, until your kingdom comes, and to pray as you taught us, saying:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go now, for we have been fed,

We have shared the living bread; we have been grafted to the vine, we have tasted heaven's new wine.

Go now, for we have been blessed.

Jesus called us each his guest. God knows our names and says we are wanted and in our lives God's seed is planted.

Go now, and go in Christ's own peace.

We go and in our going we do not cease to love ourselves – for we are God's treasure; we do not cease to love the world – for it is God's pleasure; and we do not cease to love the Lord in greatest measure. Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #495:** *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

ENGLBERG

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

* **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; 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)
- *Book of Occasional Services*
- *A Wee Worship Book* (Wild Goose Resource Group)
- *An Order of Worship for an Anniversary Service* (United Methodist Church)

This morning's service includes the **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**. All believers are welcome to the table! Communion will be served by intinction. At the appropriate time, beginning with the front rows, come forward by the middle aisle to the servers nearest you. Tear off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Return to your seat by the outside aisle. Anyone unable to come forward will be served at their seat.

Today is a very special day in the life and history of Bethany, as we celebrate our **125th Anniversary**. This has been almost a year-long journey, as we kicked off our celebration at the end of January, joined with former pastor Rev. Norman Whitney to celebrate the actual date of our anniversary in May, and now to culminate our celebration here in September. Words are not adequate to express our gratitude to **Pat Flythe**, who has ably led our celebration planning team. To all those who have worked to make this weekend happen, we are most grateful. We hope you have made reservations for our **Anniversary Luncheon**, which immediately follows worship.

We are extremely fortunate this morning to welcome to our pulpit **Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson**. J. Herbert currently serves the church as **Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**, and travels extensively as a representative of the denomination. The son, grandson, and nephew of Presbyterian pastors, he is the first African-American to lead the denomination, which has a 300-year history in the United States. As Stated Clerk his duties include interpreting assembly actions, representing the church on various denominational and ecumenical councils, witnessing on behalf of the church to social justice issues, and making statements as directed by an assembly. J. Herbert holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; a Master of Divinity degree from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science/Urban Studies from Johnson C. Smith University. He is a featured conference preacher and writer, and serves on various boards and professional organizations. His international travel includes trips to South Africa, Geneva, Switzerland, Montego Bay, Jamaica, and Havana, Cuba, on behalf of the PC(USA). Nelson is married to the Reverend Gail Porter Nelson, and they have one adult daughter, Alycia Yvette Nelson.

Following a fabulous concert last night, we welcome back to worship this morning, singer/songwriter/composer/activist **David LaMotte**. Here is a brief statement about David from his website: *David LaMotte is an award-winning songwriter, speaker and writer. He has performed over 3000 concerts and released twelve full-length CDs of primarily original music, touring in all of the fifty states, as well as five of the seven continents. The Boston Globe writes that his music "pushes the envelope with challenging lyrics and unusual tunings, but he also pays homage to folk tradition," while BBC Radio Belfast lauds his "charm, stories, humour, insightful songs, sweet voice and dazzling guitar ability."* David makes his home in Black Mountain, North Carolina, with his wife Deanna and son Mason. He is currently touring extensively, speaking and performing.

We welcome also as special guests this morning staff from **Salem Presbytery: General Presbyter, Rev. Sam Marshall; Associate Presbyter, Rev. Bryan McFarland; Associate Presbyter, Dr. Dianna Wright; Stated Clerk, David Vaughan.**

Please take a moment to visit the **Bethany Historical Room**, filled with artifacts from years gone by. The room is located near the Welcome Center, in the hallway coming in from the ramp door.

John will be away next Sunday, attending a meeting of a General Assembly committee, of which he is a member. He will return to the office on Thursday, October 5th. Filling the pulpit next Sunday will be **Rev. Amanda Maguire**, former Associate Pastor at Graham Presbyterian Church.

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. On the prayer list for this week are: **Erich Thompson, woodworker, Greensboro; Prospect Presbyterian, Mooresville; Faith Presbyterian, Greensboro; John Calvin Presbyterian, Salisbury.** 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:

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

Tuesday, the 26th:

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

Wednesday, the 27th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 1st:

- **World Communion Sunday**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Rev. Amanda Maguire, preaching

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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