Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

October 5, 2025 – 11:00 am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Balm in Gilead* ARRANGED BY ROGER C. WILSON

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #482:** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* JOACHIM NEANDER

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Announcements

Opening Sentences (Psalm 24:1, 116:12-13)

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.
What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?
We will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Gathering Prayer (Lamentations 1, Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1, Luke 17)

Holy and Triune God, your table transcends time and space.
As your disciples on World Communion Sunday, we join our voices to the songs and prayers offered to your name throughout the world. Increase our faith and give us grace to love and forgive one another, as you have loved and forgiven us. We remember all your beloved children who suffer this day – especially the victims and refugees of war. We hear the echo of their broken lives in the songs of lament in today's scriptures. Help us bear witness to their suffering without fear. Give us the courage to live in love with you, in you, and for you. For the sake of all your beloved children, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*Affirmation of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Hymn of the Day #514: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* Fred Kaan

Let us talents and tongues employ,
Reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one.
At the table He sets the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and in deed express. **(Refrain)**

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! **(Refrain)**

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

As we come today to your great table, O God, we realize how small we have made our own. Our vision of your grace is too narrow. Our awareness of your mercy is too limited. Our understanding of your kingdom always falls short. We fail to measure up to the people you have called us to be. Hear our prayers and forgive our shortcomings. Raise our eyes, lift our hearts, and inflate our spirits, so that we may live joyfully and abundantly in the manner of Jesus. Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, across time and space and through the generations, God seeks us out. This is good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 137 — pew Bible, 772

Romans 8:31-39 — pew Bible, 1377

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Word in Music: *Even in the Valley* — (Rebecca Peck)

The Word Proclaimed

Sermon: ***"The Sacramental Life"*** — Rick Purcell, CRE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #428: *We Give Thee But Thine Own* — WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

*CLOSING HYMN #539: *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise* — JOHN ELLERTON

Savior, again to Thy dear Name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
We stand to bless Thee ere our worship cease;
And, now departing, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife.
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

*SENDING

Let us go from this place trusting that God is with us and for us in every place.
May the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you this day and forever-more. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Praise Him With Trumpets* — PATRICIA LOU HARRIS

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room
On Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom we will have our exercise classes. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, October 7th Alamance Co. Mobile Library
The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library with be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30.
Please stop by and "check-out" this wonderful service the library has to share.

Tuesday, October 7th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering
The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, October 7th at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Saturday, October 11th 5:00pm Shrimp-a-Roo
Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 11th at 5:00 pm for our annual **Shrimp-a-Roo.**
This is a Men of the Church sponsored event for **Bethany family and friends.**
Come enjoy this feast, and table fellowship with your Bethany family and friends!
We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Don't miss it!!

Saturday, October 25th 11:30am – 2:00pm Fall Festival – Recreation Area
Our annual fall festival is back!
There will be food and fun activities for all ages, including face painting, balloon art, and games.
We will be joined this year by several of the First Responders in Alamance County.
All are welcome. There is no entry fee.

We need volunteers – please let Tina Patterson/Nancy Purcell know if you are interested in helping.

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)
How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **Fall months**? They are asking for **Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice and Spaghetti. Breakfast items (Cereals, Granola Bars, Oatmeal, Breakfast Bars), Children and Adult diapers and Feminine products.**
S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.
Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, October 5th - 17th Sunday after Pentecost - World Communion & Pennies for Hunger

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, October 8th

10:00 – Exercise class - Evie C. Marshall classroom

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, October 12th - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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worship serve teach support

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Session
Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE
Clerk: Randy Cousins
Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2025:
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Tina Patterson
Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:
Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

Class of 2027:
Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Brandon Troxler

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