



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

October 11, 2020 – 11:00 am

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



“Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“The Tech has made our world instantaneous. Our daily walk with Jesus, however, happens not in minutes, but in moments—glorious indefinite moments filled with God’s presence. In these moments we can practice responding to that presence, which is one definition of prayer.” - Thomas, Adam. Digital Disciple. Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

PRELUDE: *I Look to God in Every Need*

FRANKLIN RITTER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*(Please take a moment to **socially distantly** share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

* GATHERING SONG: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

PAUL BALOCHE

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you;*

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you;*

to see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you;*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise be to God, who has brought us here this day.

Praise and thanks to God for all the blessings we have received.

What joy we have in God's presence!

What peace is brought to us in God's house!

This is truly the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN #483: *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above***

MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.*

With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

*What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.*

Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

*The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!*

*Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.*

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Open our hearts and our spirits to hear your healing words of peace and love, O God. Help us be the people of service and justice that you have called us to be. Make us ready to heal rather than harm; to serve rather than sever. Give us hearts of joy and justice.

Lord, you know we are in the midst of a very confusing political season. The shouts of the partisan communities often deafen us to the needs of those around us. Help us remember that you have called us to service, to ministries of hope and healing.

Forgive us when we get so caught up in the chaos that we forget your presence. Give us courage and strength to truly serve you by serving your people.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Beloved of the Lord, we are healed and forgiven. We are called to go forth in compassionate ministry to help others in need.

We know that God always goes with us on our journeys into ministry. In that knowledge we are at peace. Amen.

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355: *Hear the Good News of Salvation***

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me, love me still and cleanse within.*

*** 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 say what we believe. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 God 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

*** DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*** HYMN OF THE DAY #171:** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST. COLUMBA

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

*Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

*Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!*

*And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Blessed Assurance*

FANNIE J. CROSBY / J. F. KNAPP

"Blessed Assurance" is one of the more famous of the over 8,000 hymns penned by Fannie Crosby (1820-1915) often referred to as the Mother of congregational singing in America. During the month of October, we will showcase many of her hymns to recognize the 200th anniversary of her birth.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The Digital Church: Googling Prayer***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #210: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.
Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.
A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.*

* SENDING

Even in this time of pandemic, we are a blessed people.

We will go to be a blessing in the world.

Even when there are so many angry people around us, we are the face of Jesus.

We will go to be love and compassion to all.

Even when we are isolated, quarantined, living in lockdowns, we are the family of God.

We will go to serve our sisters and brothers wherever we may find them.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Rise Up and Serve the Lord*

PATRICIA LOU HARRIS / WILLIAM WALTER



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). 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.

“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.**

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. A **Video Recording** of our Zoom Worship and our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

We also rejoice that we have returned to **worshipping in person** in our beautiful sanctuary. Here are some guidelines to follow to ensure the health and safety of our congregation:

- **Masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please do not sit in any pews that have been blocked off. This is to make sure that social-distancing guidelines are being followed.
- Bulletins are available at the doors. They will not be distributed but you may pick one up as you wish. See the QR code to download our Interactive Digital Bulletin to your smartphone or tablet.
- The offering will not be collected but offering plates are available in the narthex. You may place your offering in the plates on your way out, or you may follow the QR code below to give online.
- Please refrain from physical interaction during our “meet and greet” time. Waves and virtual hugs are our new normal - at least for awhile!
- Although we normally encourage singing hymns with gusto, that might not be the wisest thing to do right now. Either sing softly through your mask, or hum.
- John will be at the door to greet following the service, but will not shake hands or hug . . . just an elbow bump and the knowledge that he’s smiling beneath the mask!

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Call to Worship* worship resource

Post-Sabbatical Sermon Series: This morning we continue a six-week sermon series, sharing insights that John has gleaned through his sabbatical focus of study - The Digital Church. There is also a study component of this series, as those who are interested are invited to gather each Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour for a lively discussion of the book on which this series is based: *“Digital Disciple: Real Christianity in a Virtual World.”* The book is available on Amazon. Here are the themes for each Sunday during the series:

- Sunday, September 13th: *The Digital Church: Virtual People*
- Sunday, September 20th: *The Digital Church: From Connection to Communion*
- Sunday, September 27th: *The Digital Church: Remote Intimacy*
- Sunday, October 4th: *The Digital Church: Empty Minds and Disposable Bodies*
- **Sunday, October 11th: *the Digital Church: Googling Prayer***
- Sunday, October 18th: *The Digital Church: Tech Sabbath*

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley
Norm Whitney

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Family of Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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.

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.

Join us **each Thursday evening** for our fall **Bethany Book Club**, as we engage in a discussion of the prominent issue of racism, and our response as followers of Christ. We will be reading and discussing the book ***Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race***, by Debby Irving. The book is available on Amazon. This study will be offered both in-person here at the church and virtually via Zoom. Watch your email for the Zoom link.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for September are **Karen Maxwell** and **Tracey Troxler**.

The Session has called for a **Congregational Meeting** to immediately follow worship **this morning** for the purpose of acting on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to elect **Shelby Smith** as a Ruling Elder to the Session in the Class of 2023.

The **Session** will meet for its monthly stated meeting this **Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 pm** (in-person and via Zoom.)

Scan the QR code here to access and download our new Interactive Digital Bulletin.



This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion (in person and via Zoom)
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series V - *The Digital Church: Googling Prayer*
- Congregational Meeting following worship

Tuesday, the 13th:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting (in-person and via Zoom)

Wednesday, the 14th :

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Thursday, the 15th:

- 7:00 - *Waking Up White* book study (in person and via Zoom)

Sunday, the 18th:

- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series VI - *The Digital Church: Tech Sabbath*

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org
Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele
Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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