Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

October 12, 2025 – 11:00 am
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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:

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #478:** *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* HENRY FRANCIS LYTE

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.

Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!
Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (BASED ON PSALM 66)

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!
Sing to the glory of God's name.
All of creation worships, singing praise to God.
Sing to the glory of God's name.
Let us give glory to God

GATHERING PRAYER (PSALM 66, 2 TIMOTHY, LUKE 17)

Holy One, we gather to sing your praises!
We are grateful for the gift of this day and all the ways you make your presence known.
We are grateful for your abiding Spirit and the ways the Spirit empowers us to be your people.
In this time of worship, deepen our faith. Restore our souls and heal us.
After we have spent time with you, return us to our community, that we may share your love and grace with everyone we meet. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH))

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

***HYMN OF THE DAY #466:** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* CHARLES WESLEY

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES (BASED ON 2 TIMOTHY & LUKE 17)

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Assured of God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

Holy God, When we are in need, we cry out for your mercy and healing. Yet, we confess that too often, we are confident in our own strength. We take the blessings to which we feel entitled and continue on our way, rather than returning to you in worship and praise. Jesus, have mercy on us! It is easy to take for granted the ease of life we so often experience, while failing to question why others are pushed to the margins and excluded.
It is tempting to take pride in our health and strength rather than confronting ableism in all its forms. Jesus, have mercy on us! Help us to grow in compassion for all people. Redirect our paths so that we return to you, offering our praise and gratitude, now and always. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE (BASED ON 2 TIMOTHY)

The saying is sure: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. We are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Our sin is forgiven! Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Wisdom, By the power of your Holy Spirit, open us to receive your Word today. Lead us in wisdom and courage as we seek to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray, Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 66:1-12 PEW BIBLE, 713

LUKE 17:11-19 PEW BIBLE, 1274

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Even in the Valley* (REBECCA PECK)

THE WORD PROCLAIMED
Sermon: ***"Borderland"*** RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
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.

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 #298:** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* FREDERICK WILLIAM FABER

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

***SENDING**

Get up and go on your way! Go from this place to be builders of God's beloved community.
See the face of Christ in each person you meet. Follow the Spirit, wherever she may lead.
Now go in peace.

POSTLUDE:

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** 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.

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.

Tuesday, November 4th 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, November 4th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, November 4th at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

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 paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, October 12th - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Tuesday, October 14th - 7:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 15th

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

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, October 19th - 19th 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

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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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – *finance@bethanypreschurch.org*

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