Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

October 26, 2025 – 11:00 am
Twentieth 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 #313:** *Come Down, O Love Divine* BIANCO DA SIENA

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek out this soul of mine
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Your glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess God's grace,
Till Love creates a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (BASED ON LUKE 18:14)

All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.
We humble ourselves before our God, ready to hear and receive God's truth.

GATHERING PRAYER (JOEL 2, PSALM 65, 2 TIMOTHY 4)

Giver of dreams and visions, pour out your Spirit on our fellowship, for we need your presence in our lives.
Show your portents in the heavens and set your signs on the earth and seas.
Touch our spirits with the awe of your majesty, that we may humbly dwell within your courts in peace and harmony. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #525:** *Here I Am, Lord* DANIEL L. SCHUTTE

I, the Lord of the sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who have made the stars of the night,
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I the Lord of the snow and rain,
I have born my people' pain
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their heart's of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone

I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? **(Refrain)**

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send? **(Refrain)**

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us open ourselves in this time of prayer, being truthful in our confession as we humble ourselves before our God.

Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling. We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word, turn up the volume on lesser noises, and lean into the comfort of our own certainty rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge. You send us messengers, and we sidestep them; you challenge us, and we defend ourselves. Again and again, Holy God, we resist what we do not want to hear. And yet you keep calling. Have mercy on us. Interrupt our evasions. Soften what pride has hardened in us.
Let us hear and receive your truth. Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace (from the Book of Common Worship)

Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination (2 Timothy 4:3)

God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word read and proclaimed. Prepare us, then, to listen well. Open our ears to your truth; open our minds to the unexpected. Humble us here, in your presence, so nothing stands in the way — not pride, not distraction, not weary hearts.
Let your Word reach us as we are now. Amen.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 84:1-7 pew Bible, 731

Luke 18:9-14 pew Bible, 1276

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Word in Music: *Amazing Grace* arr. by Donald Moore

The Word Proclaimed

Sermon: ***"No Regrets"*** 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 #538:** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* JOHN FAWCETT

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
For Thy gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of Thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, Ever faithful
To the truth may we be found.

So that when Thy love shall call us,
Savior, from the world away,
Let no fear of death appall us,
Glad Thy summons to obey.
May we ever, May we ever
Reign with Thee in endless day.

***SENDING** (A VARIATION ON NUMBERS 6:24-26)

May we leave this house of worship today, quick to listen, slow to speak,
open to hearing and responding to God's truth.
May God bless you and keep you, be kind and gracious to you,
may God look upon you with favor and bring you peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE:

** 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, 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 26th - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Wednesday, October 29th

10:00 – Exercise class - Not meeting this week

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, November 2nd - 21st Sunday after Pentecost - Communion & Pennies for Hunger – Daylight saving time ends

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

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27253
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

Staff
Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – *pastor4bethany@gmail.com*
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – *bethanypresmusic@gmail.com*
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – *office@bethanypreschurch.org*
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – *finance@bethanypreschurch.org*

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