



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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October 30, 2022 – 11:00 am

130 Years of Stories and Hymns

Reformation Sunday



Please give your servant a discerning mind in order to govern your people and to distinguish good from evil, because no one is able to govern this important people of yours without your help."

1 Kings 3:9 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship on this celebration of 130 years of ministry in story and hymn! While our congregation was official organized on May 29, 1892, the educational ministry started along Little Alamance Creek that we were birthed out of was started in 1882 (140 years ago). 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! Some of today's liturgy is from Ruth Burgess, A Book of Blessings (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2001).

PRELUDE: *Christ Our Fortress, Christ Our Cornerstone*

CHRISTINA BECKETT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we come in celebration,
We now contemplate our past
We delight in former friendships
And the love that holds us fast;
All our past is now accepted;
Through its troubles we have grown;
Now the future beckons to us,
Knowing we are not alone.

We give honour to past visions
Fostering community;
For all feelings of belonging
Energizing harmony;
We acknowledge past commitments,
Past successes, past mistakes;
Jesus never promised to us
Life without its pains and aches.

As this annivers'ry passes
We commit to ministry;
Look to Jesus for direction;
Forge a thrilling destiny;
We have journeyed on together
With abundant, godly care;
We now look toward the future
Knowing God will meet us there.

*OPENING SENTENCES

"THE JOURNEY AHEAD," KATE MCILHAGGA

Bless O God, the journey ahead.

***Bless the travelling
and the arrival.***

Bless those who welcome
and those who accept hospitality,
***that Christ may come among us
in journeying and in stillness.***

Let us worship our God.

*GATHERING PRAYER

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.***

Receive our gratitude, God of love, for the 130 years through which you have led us,
and opened 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 in 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.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, as you have done for this community for 130 years,
we invite you again to pour your Holy Spirit out upon us,
to prepare our hearts to accept your word,
to silence in us any voice but your own,
that, hearing, we may obey your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

1 KINGS 3:4-15

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 423-424

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Wonderful Words of Life* (Piano/Organ Duet – Meares/Bagley)

PHILLIP P. BLISS-ARR. BY JAMES & STAN PETHEL

***DOXOLOGY #593:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Please pray with me.

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, you have been faithful to us in this place for well over a century. As we celebrate serving you and our neighbor on this Reformation Sunday, we do so as people and as a people who haven't always gotten it right. We ask that you meet us in the coming silence, O God of grace and truth, of mercy and justice, of great love for your whole creation. Hear us as we tell the truth about ourselves, and about our community. Tug at our hearts and nudge at our spirits that we may know the places in our lives and our life together that you would have us turn around. Comfort our souls and fill us with peace that we may know that your love is the final word.

Join me now in silence.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM AND AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

We give thanks for our baptism and for all the baptisms in this congregation in our history. If you have not been baptized and would like to be, or have any questions about baptism, please reach out to Jon.

SONG: *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (choir)*

Holy God, source of all life, we give you thanks for your Spirit moving over the waters, creating heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By a flood you washed away evil then made an everlasting covenant with all of creation. You lead your people through the sea, out of slavery and into freedom, leading every step of the way.

Through John you baptized your son, Jesus, in the waters of the Jordan and anointed him with your Spirit. You baptize us in water and anoint us with your Spirit, making us one with Christ and with one another.

In these waters you claim us and name us your own. You give us new life and a purpose for living. Your Spirit empowers us to follow where you lead, as we work and watch for your coming reign of justice, peace, and love.

All praise to you, most Holy God, from this day to that great day when the river of the water of life, bright as a crystal, will flow through the middle of the city, and the tree of life, heavy with fruit, will bring healing to the nations, and you will be our light forever and ever. **Amen.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE #654 (GLORY TO GOD): *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (sung twice)*

TAIZE' COMMUNITY

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

CELEBRATING WITH STORY AND HYMN

THE FIRST STORY

SAMUEL MEARES

THE FIRST HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Samuel Meares, Tina & Glenn Patterson

JOHN RUTTER

THE SECOND STORY

KIM SNYDER

THE SECOND HYMN #150: *Come, Christians Join to Sing* (Congregation)

CHRISTIAN HENRY BATEMAN

Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice;
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again;
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

THE THIRD STORY

APRIL TROXLER, MORGAN TROXLER

THE THIRD HYMN #341: *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine* (Congregation)

FANNY JANE CROSBY

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

THE FOURTH STORY

MORGAN WHITNEY JR.

THE FOURTH HYMN #443: *O Christ, the Great Foundation* (Congregation)

JOHN FAWCETT

O Christ the great foundation
on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation
in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit
to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken
as long as worlds endure.

THE FIFTH STORY

REV. JOHN JOHNSON

THE FIFTH HYMN #438: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (Congregation)

JOHN FAWCETT

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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 wine shared,
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 in 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.***

***SPOKEN CHARGE**

"GOING OUT," ROSIE MILES

As we go out from this place
May we be
full of desire and wonder,
full of longing and praise
and full of the courage to love.
Alleluia!

RECESSIONAL HYMN #276: *Great is Thy Faithfulness

THOMAS OBEDIAH CHISHOLM

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

We will recess outside for a special dedication that will conclude our service. A time of fellowship will follow.

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

October 30th – 130th Anniversary

We are celebrating the 130th anniversary of our officially being a congregation (and the 140th anniversary of the little Sunday School that became Bethany!). Come join us for a service of stories and hymns. A special dedication in memory of Rev. Whitney will immediately follow.

November 6th – All Saints and Souls

This year we will hold our remembrance during Communion. The names of the members we have lost in the past year will be read as part of the liturgy, followed by the tolling of the church bell. During the sacrament you are invited to light a candle in memory of those you wish to remember on this day.

November 13th – Brass Sunday / Stewardship Sunday

We're getting the (brass) band back together! This will be a celebratory service that will also include the blessing of our pledges.

November 20th – Reign of Christ

Hanging of the greens will immediately follow the service, and all will be invited to stay and participate.

November 27th – December 18th Advent

Let Joy or me know if you're interested in being a candle lighter or reader in the Advent season

Scouts Looking for Storage Space

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:

2 camping trailers , 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).

Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes

Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9

(336) 675-9086 cell

benes.nc@att.net

Scouts Annual Popcorn Sale – is still going on through the end of October. The order form is in the Welcome Center. Please make checks payable to Troop 9.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, October 30th – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost – Reformation Sunday
130 Years of Stories and Hymns
11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

Wednesday, November 2nd

□ 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, November 6th – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – All Saints Sunday
Communion Sunday

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

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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