Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

November 2, 2025 – 11:00 am
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Communion

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 #391:** *Take My Life* FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

The changing colors of leaves, the laughter of children playing dress-up, the flowers and trees that become food for foraging creatures:
Lord, your creation boasts of your goodness.
The Sunday school teachers who taught us your Word, the stranger who asked us if we were okay, the parent who showed us right and wrong, the neighbor who dropped by to say hello:
Lord, your creation boasts of your love.
Let us join together as a community and worship our Creator, the author of everything that is beautiful.

GATHERING PRAYER (EPHESIANS 1, LUKE 6)

God of our forbearers, you turn our world upside down. You teach us that neither wealth, nor social status, nor reputation can lead us to life. You remind us to focus on your kingdom, where the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful, and those persecuted for the gospel receive your blessing. Help us follow the example of the saints, that we may receive our glorious inheritance, by living as Christ taught us to live. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

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

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. 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!"
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #329:** *Break Thou the Bread of Life* MARY ARTEMESIA LATHBURY

Break Thou the bread of life,
Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page
I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee,
O living Word!

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord,
Now unto me,
As Thou didst bless the bread
By Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease,
All fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace,
My all in all!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

The Book of James tells us every good thing comes from God (James1:17). The best parts of ourselves, of those we love. The color purple. Chocolate chip cookies. Friendship. The way trees use networks of fungi to help each other thrive. Yet, the world contains ugliness. We contain ugliness. Let us confess our shortcomings as a community that we may be free to live into our God-given purpose again.

Holy and gracious God, you are the author of every good thing. Forgive us for the ways we fall short of the beautiful story you invite us to step into. You ask us to look to the margins and care for the lost; we center ourselves. You ask us to give away; we grab for more. You ask us to love one another; we cannot see beyond our divisions. The world is full of ugliness, from the macro to the micro. Forgive us. Help us. We call on you, our beloved, our help, our God, our hope. Hear our silent confessions now.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Beloved, God hears us when we cry out. God knows our hearts, despite our failures, and treasures the beings that we are. You are forgiven. We are forgiven. You are loved. We are loved.
Let us live in this peace and find the courage to try again to bring God's kingdom into being, knowing that we will fail again but we are transformed by our small acts of trying.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (A VARIATION ON PSALM 19:14)

Lord, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of all of our hearts
be pleasing and acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our foundation. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 119:137-144 PEW BIBLE, 764

LUKE 19:1-10 PEW BIBLE, 1277

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Master Speak Thy Servant Heareth*
Dedicated in Memory of Chris Bagley, his favorite Hymn

THE WORD PROCLAIMED
Sermon: ***"Poor Little Zacchaeus?"*** 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 #370:** *Just As I Am, Without One Plea* CHARLOTTE ELLOTT

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

***SENDING**

May we move toward the blessings in our lives. May God direct us to shift our perspective, to witness and grow what is beautiful, to move towards reconciliation. And may God bless you and keep you, may God's grace shine upon you and bring you peace. Amen.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

"Peace" Written by Christopher A. Bagley

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.

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, 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)

Wednesday, November 5th

10:00 – Exercise class

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, November 9th - 22nd 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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