



Bethany Presbyterian Church

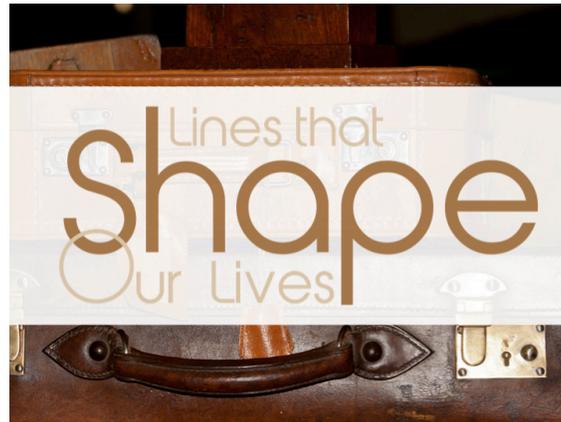
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

November 4, 2018 – 11:00 am

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



“But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.’”
Ruth 1:16 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship! Join in with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength . . . don’t hold back! Sing from your toes! Pray from your guts. Worship the Eternal Creator from your soul. It’s not about perfect music. It’s not about the perfect prayer. It’s about joining the holy roar of a community honestly wrestling with what it means to follow their Creator.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Praise Him! Praise Him!*

F. 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 share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

*** GATHERING SONG:** *God Welcomes All*

God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God’s love is strong and it never ends.

(Repeat, ad lib)

THEMBA AMEN / JOHN BELL

* CALL TO WORSHIP

You are welcome in this place, where God meets us in love.

Why are we here? We are here to love God with all that we have and all that we are.

You are welcome in this place, where God loves us as children.

Why are we here? We are here to love ourselves as deeply as God loves us.

Welcome to this place, where God serves us at the Table of love and grace.

Why are we here? We are here to be sent forth to love others as deeply as we love God and ourselves.

* **OPENING HYMN:** *The Lord Is God* (see page 4)

AZMON

*The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.*

*With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.*

*At night or day, at home, away, together and apart,
O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.*

*The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

The universe proclaims God's truth. God's knowledge flows night and day!

We open our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, our hearts to receive.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

RUTH 1:1-18

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 333

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Living God: when there is a famine in our souls, you feed us with grace; when there are pockets of poverty in our love for others, you bless us with generosity; when we are empty and alone, you move into our hearts.

Jesus, Bearer of the good things which have come to us: you bend down to lift us from despair; you embrace those who don't have a friend in the world; you open the eyes of those struck blind by arrogance and ambition.

Eternal Spirit: you walk with us wherever we go; you take the fragments of our lives and reshape us into holy people; you are with us, and not even death can separate us.

God in Community, Holy in One, hear us as we pray.

The world teaches us many ways to love, but all are based on selfish desires and needs. God teaches us how to love: completely, uniquely, unconditionally. Let us confess our difficulty to be as loving as God teaches us, as we pray, saying,

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have. We find it hard to love our neighbor, when it is linked to the way we love ourselves. And it is difficult to love anyone - even You - more than we love ourselves.

Forgive us, God of Love. As you took a risk in creating us, help us to take risks to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In God's Kingdom, all are loved for who they are, not what they do; in God's Kingdom, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't; in God's Kingdom, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.

Forgiven, loved, sent forth - we are not far from God's Kingdom! Thanks be to God. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *We Are Forgiven*

TRADITIONAL / HAL HOPSON

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
(Repeat)*

*** 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.

We believe in God – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church.

We believe the church is one worldwide communion of saints, called from the entire human family.

We believe the church is the single community of believers, reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that through the working of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force and also that we must seek this unity, which must become visible to the world.

We believe that the sin of division, separation and hatred between people and groups has been conquered by Christ.

We commit ourselves to protecting the unity of the church universal.

We pledge to make this unity active in all of our words, thoughts and deeds. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Fairest of All*

E. LEWIS

*** A DOXOLOGY:** *We Lift Our Voices*

DWIGHT LILES

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours; we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering, we are an offering.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF THE DAY #281: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

COM RHONDDA

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

J. WESLEY / J. DARWELL / ARR. H. PFOHL

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;

Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore;

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven,

The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given;

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He all His foes shall quell, shall all our sins destroy,

And every bosom swell with pure seraphic joy;

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice,

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: LINES THAT SHAPE OUR LIVES

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN #288:** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

The Lord Is God

63



1 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise
2 With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
3 At night or day, at home, a - way, to - geth - er and a - part,
4 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise



to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.
O peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
O chil - dren, take these ho - ly words and keep them in your heart.
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.





Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). Whether you are a member or a guest 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](https://twitter.com/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.**

For our children: Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Activities for children can be found at several locations throughout the sanctuary. See an usher if you can’t find one.

Audio and Visual Assistance: A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Please take a moment – members and guests – to sign the **Fellowship Pads** that are located on each row. If you are a guest, please share any contact information you wish to, so that we may be in touch.

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

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.

Resources used in this morning’s worship:

- *Homiletics Onlines* website (www.homileticsonline.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

What a fabulous Sunday we experienced last week as we brought to a climax our **2018 Stewardship Emphasis Season**. We were blessed with fabulous music from our choir and our guests from Graham High School, and we were graced with inspired preaching from our guest preacher, Rev. Steve Scott. And it is always moving as we bring forward our **Pledge Cards** and financial commitments for the coming year. If you have not had an opportunity to turn in your Pledge Card, you may do so at any time in the church office, to the attention of Pam Hurt, our bookkeeper and Financial Secretary.

We hope you have made a reservation for our **Celebration Luncheon** which immediately follows worship this morning. We will gather to celebrate what is sure to be a successful stewardship campaign!

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **“check in” on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Joan Richardson	Joey Leake
Shirley Lane	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Levi Byrd	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin	Katherine Bayliff	Alex Thomas
Katherine Turner	Randy Thompson	Susie Hunley
Deanna Yates	Foy Bayliff	Bill Abplanalp

Carter Garrett (Pat Testerman's brother)

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

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.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for November are **Jean Payne** and **Brandon Troxler**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- **12:00 - Celebration Luncheon!**

Monday, the 5th:

- 7:00 - Circle #4

Tuesday, the 6th:

- 7:00 – Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday, the 7th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 11th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:

Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.