



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

November 19, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.  
*Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost*



*“But you aren’t in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won’t catch you by surprise like a thief. All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don’t belong to night or darkness.”*  
1 Thessalonians 5:4-5 (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:** *Fairest of All*

E. LEWIS

### 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:** *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)* (see next page)

MARTY HAUGEN

## Here in This Place

401

## Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way; here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

How shall we enter the house of the Lord?

***With songs of great praise and rejoicing!***

How shall we prepare ourselves to receive the blessings?

***With hearts, minds, and spirits that are open.***

Come, let us worship the Lord and bow down.

***Let us offer our praise to God who has redeemed us. Let us worship God!***

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE #479: *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven***

LAUDA ANIMA

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

**AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION**

When we remember all the mistakes we have made, all the careless words we have spoken, all the contempt we have given to those around us, we have trouble looking God in the eye. But God gazes at us with mercy and love, waiting to forgive us, even as we hesitate to speak of the brokenness of our hearts. Join me as we pray, saying:

***Again, we must confess our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make.***

Have mercy on us. Once again, open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**AN OFFERING OF SILENCE**

**AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE**

This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.

***The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.***

**\* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355: *Hear the Good News of Salvation***

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!  
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

**\* 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 confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY #483:** *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

## AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** Graham High School Choral Ensemble

JENNIFER WELLS, CONDUCTOR

\* **THE DOXOLOGY:**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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

### MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #324:** *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** Graham High School Choral Ensemble

JENNIFER WELLS, CONDUCTOR

## THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Silicon Faith***

REV. JOHNSON

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1440

## LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

\* **CLOSING HYMN #379:** *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

SOLID ROCK

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Word of God, Across the Ages*

L. SMITH

\* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*



# ***Our Faith Community @ Work***

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

**WELCOME** to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a member or a visitor 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

**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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))
- *Homiletics Online* website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))

We are pleased to welcome as our guests this morning the **Graham High School Choral Ensemble**, under the direction of **Jennifer Wells**. We are glad that we can welcome you all back to Bethany and that you can share in this worship service with us.

If you have not submitted your **Pledge Card** for 2018, please do so at your earliest convenience. They can be brought by the church office at any time, or mailed to the church to the attention of Pam Hurt. Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of Bethany Presbyterian!

Please make note of our upcoming **Advent worship series "Angels Among Us."** This will be an engaging and creative look at Advent, so you don't want to miss any Sunday. Here are the dates and themes:

- Advent 1 – December 3rd: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 – **Make Ready a People: #morehope**
- Advent 2 – December 10th: Luke 1:26-56 – **Nothing is Impossible: #morepeace**
- Advent 3 – December 17th: Matthew 1:18-25 – **Do Not Be Afraid: #morejoy**
- Advent 4/Christmas Eve – December 24th: Luke 2:1-20 – **This Will Be a Sign: #morelove** (NOTE: Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. The Sunday morning service will be a special Christmas presentation by our choir, while our 5:00 Christmas Eve Service will be our traditional service of communion and candlelighting, with the theme as noted above.)
- Sunday after Christmas – December 31st: Matthew 2:1-23 – **Get Up and Go: #morelife**

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.

**To the parents of young children:** Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.

- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me!”
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elder: Jean Payne)

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	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	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	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	Shelvia Russell
Celeste Bayliff Agner		Ruby Martin

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: [www.salempresbytery.org](http://www.salempresbytery.org). On the prayer list for this week are: **Hawfields Presbyterian, Mebane; Logan Presbyterian, Scotts; Forest Hills Presbyterian, High Point; Dale Walker, Chaplain, Southland Electric.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

**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.

**Young at Heart Class** (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor’s office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

**Seeker’s Class** (Church Office)

The Seeker’s Class is currently using the *Wired Word* curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

**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, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for November are **Ron Kimrey** and **Glenn Patterson**.

### **This Week's Calendar:**

Today:

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

Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup>:

- 7:00 – “What Is the Bible?” Book Study

Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>:

- Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup>:

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

#### **Session**

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

#### **Class of 2017:**

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

#### **Class of 2018:**

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

#### **Class of 2019:**

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

# **bethany presbyterian**

**love learn serve**



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#### **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*



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