



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 1, 2019 – 11:00 am

First Sunday of Advent



“Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means ‘God with us.’)”*

Matthew 1:22-23 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

People that experience exile long for hope to hold on to until they can be rescued and released from their captors. Exile is a place where people desire for someone to save them. When a person wakes up and wonders if today could possibly get any worse than yesterday, that person may be living in exile. Some may say that reading the daily headlines now in the 21st century brings echoes of a type of exile from what life could and should be like.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Be Comforted, My People*

L. SMITH

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, We Await Your Advent Here* (tune to *O Master Let Me Walk With Thee*)

MARYTON

*God, we await your advent here: When will these desert lands rejoice?
When will new blossoms bright appear And all earth praise you with one voice?*

We live in deserts we have made; Gifts of your love we pass right by.

We seek possessions, more each day, And then in thirst for joy, we cry.

*God, we prepare for Jesus’ birth — Searching for gifts from store to store!
Yet when you sent your Christ to earth, You gave us joy worth so much more.*

When in the love of Christ we grow, Streams in this desert shall abound.
Then by your Spirit we will know: True wealth in Jesus Christ is found.

*** LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

As the season of Advent begins we celebrate hope.

We know that through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God is coming to save the world.

While we watch and wait for Jesus to arrive, we join in God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.

We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of healing as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.

[The Candle of Hope is lit.]

Come, Come Emmanuel 91

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
man - u - el. man - u - el.

*** OPENING HYMN #9: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

VENI EMMANUEL

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

MATTHEW 1:20-25

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 844

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1170

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

God of glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour. Come to us now, in spirit and truth. Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace. You know what time it is:

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

Salvation is near!

Let us confess our sin.

God, we are ready now.

We want peace now.

We long to receive the Prince of Peace in our world today. But don't delay too long, Holy One, for soon we'll be busy with parties, and decorating, and baking, and shopping. Our lives are crammed so full, we find it hard to calendar you in; we find it hard to locate the time to welcome the Light of the World.

We need your help, O God. Teach us to set aside our party wardrobes, and clothe ourselves in Jesus Christ.

Guide us into true readiness, even though we do not know the date and time, when true peace will reign.

Wake us up; shake off the cobwebs of our complacency; and take us with you on the path up your holy mountain.

Plant your peace within us, so that each day, each moment, we may be ready for the harvest of your love.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

People of God, in our baptism we were bathed in light and clothed with grace. Therefore, put on the Lord Jesus Christ!

We are assured of God's forgiveness and therefore can live in peace and hope. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #23:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (refrain only)

GLORIA

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

B. MCGEE

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *O Come, Emmanuel*

BESIG / PRICE

*Wandering aimlessly on through the night,
Walking in darkness, seeking the light.
We search for the truth, our doubts to dispel.
O come, O come Emmanuel.
Long we have waited for You to appear,
Bringing us hope and calming our fear.
Descend now from heav'n among us to dwell.
O come, O come Emmanuel.
Come now long expected Jesus;
Come, Redeemer, Lord and King.
Precious Savior, come to lead us;
Fill us with the peace You bring.
Soon we'll see a new day dawning;
Send a sign for all to see.
End our darkness, doubt and longing;
Come and set our spirits free.
Faithful believers we watch and we pray.
Soon You will come to show us the way.
Then all of the world Your story will tell.
O come, O come Emmanuel.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Hope***

REV. JOHNSON

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION #5:** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

If in the depths of our spirits we are crying out, *"Come thou long expected Jesus;"* this table has been laid out for us.

For those who sing, "born to set your people free," and desire to be set free; the table of the Lord has a place for us.

If your heart aches to be released from fear and sin, receive the bread of Heaven and the cup of Salvation.

Those who find their rest in Jesus Christ, are welcome here.

The feast of communion is prepared for us. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

May the Approaching God be with you.

And also with you.

In the days to come, People of God, offer your hearts to the One who comes near.

We will lay aside all that keeps us from opening ourselves to God.

Now is the time to sing praises to the One who loves us.

We offer our thanksgiving to God, as we find ourselves standing within the gates of Advent.

You spoke of the days to come, Architect of life . . . With those who worry about your return, with those who have forgotten to tell time, we sing of your praises:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of the welcoming heart. All creation sings of your great love. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes when we least expect. Hosanna in the highest!

In the days to come, God of life . . . As we begin our journey to Bethlehem, as we seek to be alert and awake, we would proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ died, seeking the good for all; Christ was raised, putting on resurrection's love; Christ will come, precisely when we least expect him.

Now, pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and the cup and on those gathered in these moments . . . And when you come when we least expect, to bring all history to an end, gather us around the Table of joy, where we will join our sisters and brothers of every place and time in forever praising you, and praying as Christ taught us:

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, you truly are Immanuel "God with us". In this season of hope, may the meal we've shared together nourish us to be your body in the world, your kingdom come, your will done on earth as it is in heaven. With the angels in heaven we join in singing your praises, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #15: *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

As is our custom on this first Sunday of the month, you are invited to bring your Pennies For Hunger offerings and place in the basket on the table.

LLANGLOFFAN

* SENDING

We may not know when, but we will go,
to bring God's grace to our broken world.

We may not know who, yet we will go,

to receive Jesus' hope from those we are uncomfortable being around.

We may not know how, so we will go,

to share the Spirit's peace in the most unusual places.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come*

J. DENTON

* *Please 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 (PCUSA). 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; 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 today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- Carolyn Winfrey Gillette hymns (carolynshymns.com)
- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources.

If you missed our fabulous Consecration Sunday worship last week, and have not had an opportunity to submit a Pledge Card for the coming year, cards are available in the narthex and can be turned in to the church office (or place in Pam Hurt’s mailbox) at any time. We hope to have all pledges in as soon as possible so the Budget & Finance Committee can begin putting the 2020 budget together.

Today begins our special Advent Series: **Away in a Manger**. The themes for each Sunday are listed below.

- December 1st - Advent I: *Isaiah . . . Hope* / Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
- December 8th - Advent II: *Shepherd . . . Peace*
- December 15th - Advent III: *Joseph . . . Joy*
- December 22nd - Advent IV: *Mary . . . Love* / Choir musical presentation
- December 24th - Christmas Eve: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* / Candlelighting and Communion

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 Randy Cousins)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Shirley Lane
Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney
Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore	Katherine Turner
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
Katherine Bayliff	Alex Thomas	Foy Bayliff
Randy Thompson	Glenn Thompson	Ritchie Fishburne
Frederica Beatty	Carol Brooks	Janie Holt Clapp
	Robert Sykes	

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

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 Ben Russell)

Elders of the Month for December are **A. J. Campbell** and **Ben Russell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **ADVENT I**
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Monday, the 2nd:

- 10:00 - Circle #1
- 7:00 - Circle #4

Wednesday, the 4th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 8th:

- **ADVENT II**
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

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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

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