



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 2, 2018 – 11:00 am

First Sunday of Advent



“The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David’s line, who will do what is just and right in the land.”
Jeremiah 33:14-15 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Emojis and emoticons are popular ways to express thoughts and feelings. They are so ubiquitous that they are beginning to be the targets of lawsuits. The practice of using emojis to convey thoughts recalls an image mentioned in Scripture. God uses an emoji, we could say, to share the good news that peace and justice are coming to the world.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Be Comforted My People*

L. SMITH

ADVENT INTRODUCTION: HOPE

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.)

* 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.]

* **GATHERING SONG:** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

WAYNE WOLD

Each Sunday of Advent we will add one stanza of this song as we light a candle each week.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 85

Musical score for the song "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah". The score is written in 8/8 time and consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The chords above the first staff are Am, Em, F, Dm, and E. The lyrics are: "1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the", "2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the", "3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the", "4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the". The second staff has chords E7, Am, E, Am, and E. The lyrics are: "light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -", "light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the", "light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and", "light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;". The third staff has chords Am, Dm, Esus, and E. The lyrics are: "va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.", "flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.", "lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.", "tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light be shin - ing."

* **OPENING HYMN #2:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRODOL

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:

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 965

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

O Lord, our lives are so filled with chaos and tribulation. Help us be ready to receive your message and gift of hope, that we might grow into faithful disciples, serving you by serving others with hope and compassion.

God of Amazing Surprises, we are rushing headlong into this season of buying, giving, greed, and struggle. We want to think of the holiday as delightful, but we tend to make it a time of the highest stress.

We over-schedule our time, overdraw our resources, ignore those moments in which we could just relax and have quiet time with our families and with you. We blame it on everything else but our own decision making. We speak of obligations, of the need to be constantly busy, of the pressure to purchase things to make people happy. The reality is that your love should be our foundation, the base from which we celebrate.

Our watchfulness is not necessarily about what is to happen, but rather should be on the ways in which we order our lives, ways that block out your love and your healing power. Forgive us for our stubborn insistence on maintaining schedule rather than focusing on your love. Heal us. Strengthen us and make us watchful over our faith in you.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Watch! Wait! God is bringing to us new hope and peace. It is a gift, given especially for us – one that we cannot earn – it's a gift.

Praise be to the giver of all great gifts, our Lord. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #23: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

(Repeat chorus)

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *I Surrender All*

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

Glo - - - - - ri-a, in excelsis Deo;

Glo - - - - - ri-a, in excelsis Deo.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Every Valley*

J. NESS BECK

*Every valley shall be exalted,
and every mountain made low,
and the crooked made straight,
and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
Amen.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *GOD'S EMOJI*

REV. JOHNSON

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout* (see page 11)

RORY COONEY / STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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 God of Advent be with you!

And also with you!

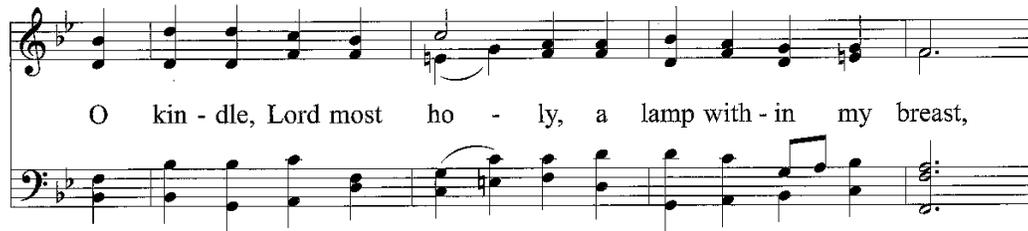
Let us pray.



O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,

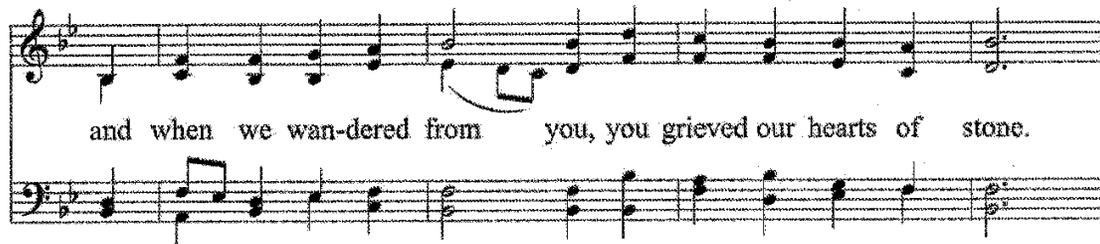


to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.

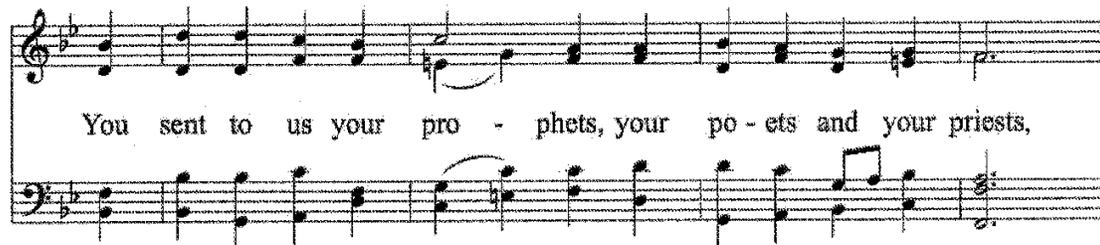
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



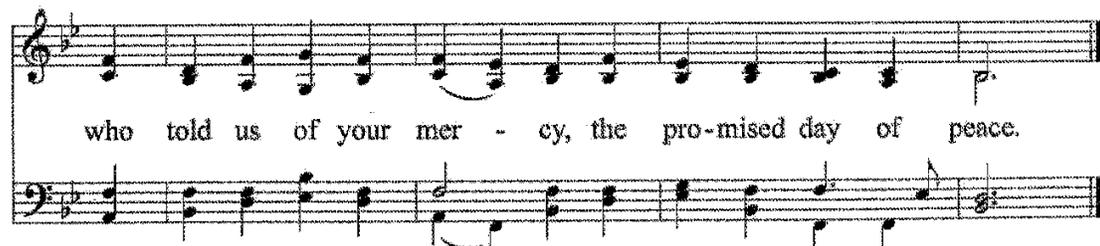
You breathed us in - to be - ing; you named us as your own;



and when we wan-dered from you, you grieved our hearts of stone.



You sent to us your pro - phets, your po - ets and your priests,



who told us of your mer - cy, the pro-mised day of peace.

You spoke the Word and days came tumbling out . . . Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are centered under the treble staff.



your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my li - ber - ty.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are centered under the treble staff.



O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are centered under the treble staff.



in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The lyrics are centered under the treble staff.

Blessed is the Teacher who comes to us. Hosanna in the highest! . . . As we begin our journey to Bethlehem, as we celebrate your coming to us in Jesus, we proclaim that mystery we know as faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your breath up - on us, and on this tab - le spread,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

that we might come to meet you in cup and bro - ken bread.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

And bind us to each oth - er that we might live to see

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

your grace in blind eyes o - pened and cap - tives break - ing free.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Pour out your Spirit upon these Advent pilgrims gathered in this place . . . And when we gather at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness, to feast at your eternal banquet, we will join our voices with our sisters and brothers, forever singing to your glory, God in Community, Holy in One, and praying as you 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 #9:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Fling Wide the Door*

H. BALCOMBE

* *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 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 Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

Today is the **First Sunday of Advent**, and we begin our journey to the manger. This is always such an exciting and expectant time of year, and one that brings us much joy and hope. Our Advent celebration continues on **this afternoon at 4:00 pm with our Advent Adventures**.

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
Faye Campbell
Frances Nolan
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore

Rachel Poteat
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Ruby Martin
Katherine Turner
Deanna Yates

Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Levi Byrd
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Foy Bayliff
Family of Pat Testerman

Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Ruth Younts
Alex Thomas
Susie Hunley
Bill Abplanalp

As the holiday season approaches, our heart goes out to those who are in need of help in order to celebrate the season in a joyous manner. Once again this year, our **Angel Tree** is up in the west entryway. **KidsPath** and **Eldercare** will once again be the beneficiaries of our generosity. So, take an angel or a snowflake from the tree and be joyous in your giving! Please refer to the next page for details and further instructions.

This year our Advent journey will also include an **Advent Food Drive**. You are invited to bring non-perishable food items each of the four Sundays of advent and place them in the designated spot. These will be donated to a local charity for those in need of food for the holidays.

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.

Our weekly Bible study, ***Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World***, continues to meet each Tuesday at 7:00 (except for the second Tuesday of the month when the Session meets.)

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

Elders of the Month for December are **Nancy Purcell** and **Glenn Patterson**.

Thank you to all who have submitted their pledges for the mission and ministry of Bethany for the coming year. For those who have not yet turned their pledges in, it's not too late. **Pledge cards** are available in the church office and can be returned to Pam Hurt or put in her mailbox. Thank you for your generosity.

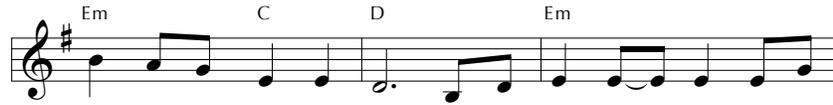
All current elders and elders-elect are reminded of their **Officer Training this evening at 7:00** here at the church.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

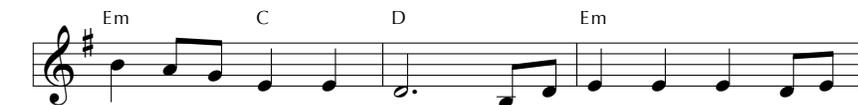


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 4:00 - Advent Adventures
- 7:00 - Officer Training

Tuesday, the 4th:

- 7:00 – Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday, the 5th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 9th:

- **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 7:00 - Officer Training

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.