



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 3, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent



“During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord’s commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old.”
Luke 1:5-7 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

It was just another day at the temple for Zechariah. It was his priestly turn to make sure everything was done properly and in good order. But it turned into something quite different when an angel showed up at the altar. Have you ever had a moment in your life after which you knew nothing would ever be the same? In the midst of great change, hope is always a welcome thing. Advent can remind us that God makes us ready for whatever unknown may come our way and calls us to be messengers of #morehope in an ever-changing world.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *He Shall Feed His Flock*

G. F. HANDEL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Each Sunday in Advent our service will begin with a Threshold Moment. There will be some introductory words, the procession of the Advent Candle, and a choral introduction from the choir, followed by the sung congregational response “Do Not Be Afraid.” (see next page)

Score

Do Not Be Afraid

worshipdesignstudio.com/angels

Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell

Arranged by Chuck Bell

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. This is followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second half of the staff contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. This is followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second half of the staff contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The lyrics 'Do not be a - fraid.' are written below the notes. There are asterisks above the first and fifth measures of both staves.

* PRAYER, CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Holy living God, blessed Jesus, guiding Spirit,

Alight within us your flame of hope this day.

[Advent Candle of Hope is lit.]

Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world, creating more hope in the midst of fear.

And with the angel messengers above us, among us, and within us, we sing:

[Sing "Do Not Be Afraid" refrain above.]

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

STUTTGART

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Hope of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Advent is the season of preparing, of waiting, of hoping. So, let us confess to the One who comes into our impatient, toe-tapping, instant-gratification-filled lives. God who is drawing near to us: we live in a world of violence, which we do not condemn enough:

Come to us, with your peace.

We are filled with the best of intentions, but are unable to follow through with action:

Come to us, with your will.

We are sinners, who are afraid to gaze into your mirror of grace:

Come to us, with your mercy.

Word of Flesh:

have mercy;

Friend of the poor:

have mercy;

Bridegroom of the faithful:

have mercy.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory! Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #40: *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

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

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *O Come, Emmanuel*

E. BUTLER

* **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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #53: *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

*What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

THE WORD SPOKEN: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 (excerpts)

To understand the life of Jesus . . . There he burned sweet incense, while outside a large crowd of people prayed.

Praying, praying, praying!

Suddenly Zachariah realized he was not alone . . . but the messenger reassured him.

[Messenger:] Zachariah, calm down! . . . He will be the Lord's forerunner, the one who will prepare the people and make them ready for God.

[Zachariah:] How can I be sure of what you're telling me? I am an old man, and my wife is far past the normal age for women to bear children. This is hard to believe!

[Messenger:] I am Gabriel! . . . until you experience the fulfillment of my words.

Meanwhile, the crowd at the temple wondered why Zachariah hadn't come out of the sanctuary yet.

I wonder why Zachariah hasn't come out of the sanctuary yet?!

It wasn't normal for the priest to be delayed for so long . . . She avoided public contact for the next five months.

[Elizabeth:] I have lived with the disgrace of being barren for all these years. Now God has looked on me with favor. When I go out in public with my baby, I will not be disgraced any longer.

When the time was right, Elizabeth gave birth to a son . . . Everyone assumed he would be named Zachariah, like his Father.

[Elizabeth:] No. We will name him John.

That name is found nowhere in your family. Zachariah, what do YOU want the baby's name to be?

He motioned for a tablet, and he wrote, "His name is John" . . . A sense of reverence spread through the whole community.

Wow!

In fact, this story was spread throughout the hilly countryside of Judea. People were certain that God's hand was on this child, and they wondered what sort of person John would turn out to be when he became a man. When Zechariah's voice was restored to him, he sang from the fullness of the Spirit a prophetic blessing.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Onward, Onward* (from *Carol of Christmas*)

JOHN PETERSON

And it is ringing and all the world's singing that sweet, sweet Carol of Christmas!

Onward, onward very, very far, onward, onward, following the star;

Down the trail and on with starlight leading them, onward to the little town of Bethlehem.

Down the trail and onward, up Judea's hill, faithful wise men followed thru the night so still;

Down the trail do dreary, crossing desert sand, up the rugged hillside of the Holy Land.

With the star before them, guiding them aright, wise men found the Savior that first Christmas night.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: MAKE READY A PEOPLE: #MOREHOPE

REV. JOHNSON

*** HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *We Gather Here in Jesus' Name*

BRYAN JEFFREY LEECH

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the beginning, you set everything in motion . . . And so we proclaim this ancient song with all of the saints and angels:

Holy, Holy Holy God! God of power! God of might! Heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you! Blessed are you!

You sent your son, Jesus – your message-made-flesh to dwell among us . . . And so as we anticipate the birth of hope anew, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Touch us, O spirit, with your transforming power . . . Make us one in your Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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

Go now, for we have been fed,

We have shared the living bread; we have been grafted to the vine, we have tasted heaven's new wine.

Go now, for we have been blessed.

Jesus called us each his guest. God knows our names and says we are wanted and in our lives God's seed is planted. Go now, and go in Christ's own peace. We go and in our going we do not cease to love ourselves – for we are God's treasure; we do not cease to love the world – for it is God's pleasure; and we do not cease to love the Lord in greatest measure. Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* CLOSING WORDS

* CLOSING HYMN #31: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Score

Do Not Be Afraid

worshipdesignstudio.com/angels

Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell
Arranged by Chuck Bell

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change from Bb to B. It contains two phrases of music, each marked with an asterisk (*). The lyrics are: "Do not be a - fraid. Do not be a - fraid." The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change from Bb to B. It contains two phrases of music, each marked with an asterisk (*). The lyrics are: "Do not be a - fraid. Do not be a - fraid."

* **POSTLUDE:** *Be Comforted, My People*

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; on Facebook at 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.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Worship Design Studio* (www.worshipdesignstudio.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)

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!

Our **Advent worship series "Angels Among Us"** begins today. 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 – Today: 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 candle lighting, 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. On the prayer list for this week are: **First Presbyterian, Kernersville; Elkin Presbyterian; Mt. Vernon Springs Presbyterian; Jacqueline Kunkle, Chaplain Hospice of Iredell County**. 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 December are **Karen Maxwell** and **Brandon Troxler**

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **First Sunday of Advent: #DoNotBeAfraid #morehope**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Lighting of the Advent Candle / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Monday, the 4th:

- 7:00 – Circle #4

Tuesday, the 5th:

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

Wednesday, the 6th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 10th:

- **Second Sunday of Advent: #DoNotBeAfraid #morepeace**
- 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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