



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 8, 2019 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent



*“When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other,
‘Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.’
They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.”*

Luke 2:15-16 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

If we are not experiencing peace in our lives, it may be related to the path we find ourselves on today. It is possible that the path some people wander onto is a subtle work of evil in the world that has led them down a way they never really intended to walk in the first place. Jesus came to destroy those subtle works of evil just as much as the more overt works that are more easily recognizable in our world.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Noel*

C. DAQUIN

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 CANDLES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

We re-light this candle for hope!

But why are we lighting a second candle?

We light a second candle for peace!

And His name shall be called “Prince of Peace.”

Angels sang at His birth: Peace on earth, goodwill to all!

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers. They shall be called children of God!”

[The Candle of Peace is lit.]

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 85

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

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;

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.

In this season of bumper to bumper stress, with life more crowded than the stores,
God welcomes us to a feast of faithfulness, where we may sit in peace and gentleness.
 In these times of rancorous rants and snide remarks, with people too busy to offer words of compassion,
Jesus whispers of hope for broken hearts, sings carols of justice for all the outsiders.
 In these days of more and more time spent with devices, and fewer moments with those who could touch us with joy,
the Spirit embraces us with peace that comforts, loves us with a passion beyond 140 characters.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 2:8-20

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1245

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

May these be the days when those who view the world differently may have fellowship together in peace; when people of all faiths and none will offer safety to each other.

May these be the days when bullies and the tormented will serve side by side at the shelter; when little ones will show grownups the paths we have forgotten to follow.

May these be the days when justice will put on the tool belt filled with faithfulness, peace, and healing; when the most vulnerable around us will shower us with a harvest of hope.

May these be the days, God in Community, Holy in One, when we will discover how near is your kingdom.

All too often, we believe God's vision of justice and peace is only for us, not those around us. We are sure others need to be cleansed and forgiven, but not us. Let us seek to live as if, indeed, the kingdom is coming near, as we offer our prayers to the One who calls us to Advent living.

Goodness Incarnate, we must confess that we have not lived as your children. We muddy the clear waters of baptism with the waste of walking over those we claim we love. We sit in our lonely lives feasting on bitterness, when we could be feasting with those we are told not to trust. We wait for all our desires to be taken care of by you, while you hope we would fill the lives of others with your hope and peace.

Forgive us, God of this holy season, and help us to be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, embrace their grief, and love them as you did when you came to us so long ago, as well as in these moments, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD’S GRACE

Here is the good news: speak with the whispers of hope until it silences despair; sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus; shower others with wonder and delight and join in God’s dance of grace.

Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! So, let us welcome others with open arms, just as we have been embraced in God’s love and laughter. Amen.

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

GLORIA

* **SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

ADAPTED FROM *CONFESSION OF 1967*

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.

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

E. BROUGHTON

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *A Christmas Doxology*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Christmas Doxology

(tune: *United Methodist Hymnal* no. 229)

G D G C D7 G
 Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son, glo-ry
 D G C D7 G C Am
 to the Ho-ly Spir-it, glo-ry to the Three-in-One. Here we of-fer to you
 D Bm Em Am D C
 glad-ly all the gifts that you im-part, as we
 G C D7 Em C G C D7 G
 glo-ry in your Pre-sence, giv-ing from a grate-ful heart.

WORDS: Brenda J. Heard
 MUSIC: Traditional Polish melody

W ZLOBIE LEZY
 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.

Words copyright © 2003 Brenda J. Heard. Permission to copy and use in local church worship and music is granted with the inclusion of this entire copyright citation on every copy or screen. Source: The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Center for Worship Resourcing, PO Box 340003, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003. Telephone (615) 340-7070; Website <http://www.umcworship.org>; Email Address: WorshipCenter@gbod.org.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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

THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Christmas Bringeth Jesus*

ROSETTI / LANTZ

*Christmas hath darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.
Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Peace*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #12:** *People, Look East*

BESANCON

* **SENDING**

As God has welcomed us in these moments,
let us go to embrace each person we meet.
As Jesus has been our servant of hope and grace,
let us go to serve the most vulnerable around us.
As the Spirit of peace has filled us,
let us go to empty ourselves of joy and peace for all.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

T. BIRCHWOOD

* *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 **Brandon Troxler**. 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 Skit Guys *Away in the Manger* Advent Series resources
- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources.

If you missed our fabulous Consecration Sunday two weeks ago, 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 we continue our special Advent Series: **Away in a Manger**. The themes for each Sunday are listed below.

- 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)

The Session will meet for it's December meeting on **this Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 pm.**

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

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **ADVENT II**
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Tuesday, the 10th:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 11th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 15th:

- **ADVENT III**
- 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

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.