



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 9, 2018 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent



*"In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius . . .
God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness."
Luke 3:1-2 (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: *He Shall Feed His Flock*

G. F. HANDEL

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 CANDLES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

[The Candle of Hope is lit.]

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 85 for Messiah

Am Em F Dm E

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

E7 Am E Am E

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;

Am Dm Esus E

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.

A voice cries out in the wilderness: *“Prepare the way of the Lord!”*

Make God’s paths straight.

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight.

The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

All will see the salvation of God.

See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

As God has spoken through the prophets,

God speaks now to us.

Hear the word of the Lord.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

LUKE 3:1-6

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1247

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Blessed is the Lord, and blessed are God’s people to whom God sends a savior, the Messiah, who is Christ the Lord. Blessed is our God, and blessed are God’s gifts, that grace us with forgiveness and every good gift.

Lord, you have come to dwell within us. Build your temple within our hearts.

O Lord, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb, until your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn. We cover our eyes, we’re so unprepared for your coming. Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all that it touches.

How can we stand before you, Lord? The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path, blocked by a mountain of sin. Where can we turn? Who will guide us back to the way of peace—the way that leads to you?

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The Lord is merciful and forgiving, a great and compassionate savior. God rescues us from darkness and frees us from fear.

The one who began this work in us seeks to bring it to completion. May the day of Christ find us flawless and without blame. 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)

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

ADAPTED FROM CONFESSION OF BELHAR

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.

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Still, Still, Still*

G. DAVIDSON

* 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

HYMN OF THE DAY #13: *Prepare the Way*

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *O come, Lord Jesus, Come*

J. P. WILLIAM

O come, Lord Jesus, come. Come in all your splendor.

O come, Lord Jesus, come. Come now our Lord and Savior.

O Day spring from on high even now draw nigh.

O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*O come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, thou Rod of Jesse.
O come, Lord Jesus, come. Fulfill Isaiah's word.
A virgin shall conceive, and she will bear a son.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.
O come, o come Immanuel and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son on God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.
O star of Bethlehem, shine on us tonight.
O come, Lord Jesus, come. O come, Immanuel.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: YOU, TOO, CAN BE A PROPHET

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

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

BESANCON

* **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 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)
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)

Today is the **Second Sunday of Advent**, and we continue our journey to the manger. Our service this morning includes the **Lighting of the Advent Candles**, as we re-light the Candle of Hope, and light the Candle of Peace.

You will want to note these events as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons:

- Sunday, December 23rd: Service of Lessons and Carols as part of our morning worship at 11:00 am
- Monday, December 24th at 5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

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

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Joey Leake

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

Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Levi Byrd
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Foy Bayliff
Robert Sykes

Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
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, which includes our regular **Monthly Stated Meeting of the Session**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Tuesday, the 11th:

- 7:00 – Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday, the 12th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 16th:

- **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

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

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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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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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