



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

December 11, 2022 – 11:00 am

*Advent 3: Joy*



"Sunrise," NASA Johnson

"But here is my servant, the one I uphold; my chosen, who brings me delight.  
I've put my spirit upon him; he will bring justice to the nations."  
Isaiah 42:1 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, *Winter: Liturgical Resources for November, December and January* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Productions, 2016).*

*During Advent we will be working on art together! You are invited to come forward at any point in the service and participate in the décollagewe are creating. We will be tearing pieces from holiday ads and catalogues and adhering them to the base in the areas that are prepared (painted) for today. After the fourth Sunday of Advent, our work will be complete and our artist will touch things up and finalize the image, which we will display in the sanctuary throughout the Christmas season.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *I Saw Three Ships* (Bell Choir)

ENGLISH CAROL / ARR. DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

"AS WE WAIT," JOAN REPPERT

As we wait for the gift of the Christ child,  
as we pray for the ways we can give,  
let us light this candle of joy,  
and live as God wants us to live.

### \*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

"ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY," TERI CAROL PETERSON

In the beginning was the Word –  
spoken and breathed,  
a promise made and kept.

***Persevere in hope, keep the faith –  
God's promise is true!***

The Word was in the beginning,  
and through him all things came into being.

***Eternal and near at hand,  
already and not yet,***

***God's promise is the foundation of all life.***

Keep going!

Persevere in joy, giving voice to God's presence yet again.

*Three candles are lit*

### \*OPENING HYMN #11: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

PAUL GERHARDT

O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My Hope, my heart's Delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
A lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.

Love caused Your incarnation,  
Love brought You down to me;  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
That led you to embrace  
In love all loves excelling  
Our lost and fallen race.

A glorious crown You give me,  
A treasure safe on high,  
That will not fail nor leave me  
As earthly riches fly.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For You with praises new,  
And from Your Name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 27: 7-10**     *Wait for the Lord*

Taize Community

**Refrain:** *(sung 2x)*  
Wait for the Lord,  
whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord;  
be strong; take heart!

Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.  
***You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."***  
***Your face, LORD, will I seek.***  
Hide not your face from me,  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.  
***You have been my helper;***  
***cast me not away;***  
***do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.***  
Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will sustain me.

**Refrain:** *(sung 2x)*  
Wait for the Lord,  
whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord;  
be strong; take heart!

**ISAIAH 42:1-9**

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 883

The Word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"JUST WHEN," THOM M SHUMAN

**RESPONSE:** *Prepare the Way of the Lord (All, sing 1x)*

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

Just when  
we expect you to  
arrive  
with anger steaming out  
of your ears,  
you come  
to sit next to us,  
listening to our deepest  
brokenness;

just when  
we figure you will show up  
to toss us in  
the nearest  
fire,  
you come  
to sweep up  
the ashes  
of every broken  
hope,  
refining them  
into the chalice  
of wonder;

just when  
we are certain you are hiding  
there  
in the shadows,  
ready to leap out  
and scare us into  
repentance,  
you come  
to swaddle us  
in garlands of grace,  
twinkling off and on  
in pure joy.

#### **A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Prepare the Way of the Lord (All, sung 2x)*

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*

ENGLISH CAROL / ARR DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

#### **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"There's A Light"*

REV. PHILLIPS

#### **ADVENT PRAYER**

**RESPONSE:** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People (verse 1)*

"INTERCESSIONS FOR ADVENT," KATHY CRAWFORD

"Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To my people now proclaim  
that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
and their warfare now is over."

Come, Lord Jesus,  
into the shadows of our world;  
a world where there is injustice, racial tension, and war,  
where many people still lack the basics of food and clean water.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
into the uncertain future of migrants  
who risk everything to escape atrocities  
yet know that they could still end up paying with their lives.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
into our communities,  
where many are struggling with debt  
and food banks have become a lifeline for those in need.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
into the shadows of our cities  
where greed and discrimination  
make misery in people's lives.

**RESPONSE:** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People (verse 2)*

For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting  
and the hills bow down in greeting.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
into our lives  
and into the lives of those for whom we are concerned.

Bring comfort to the bereaved  
and those who are struggling to cope with life on their own.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
give reassurance where there is fear,  
and confidence where there is doubt.  
Wherever people are hurting,  
come and let your light shine. **Amen.**

**RESPONSE:** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People (verse 3)*

Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

**Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #14:** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

AMBROSE OF MILAN

Savior of the nations, come;  
Virgin's Son, here make Your home.  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

From the Godhead forth You came,  
And return unto the same,  
Captive leading death and hell.  
High the song of triumph swell!

You, the chosen Holy One,  
Have ov'r sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall Your kingdom be;  
When shall we its glories see?

Brightly does Your manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright.

**\*SPOKEN CHARGE**

Prepare the way of the Lord! ***Thanks be to God.***

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*While We are Waiting, Come*

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

HENRY BALCOMBE/TUNE: MACHT HOCH DIE TUR, BY J.A. FREYLINGHAUSEN GEISTREICHES GASANG-BUCH

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# *Our Faith Community @ Work*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **November 20<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup> - Bethany Angel Tree 2022**

The Angel Tree will be up and loaded. This year we will be adopting Alamance Eldercare and Alamance Meals on Wheels clients. Please see handout for all the details.

### **November 27<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup> Advent Book Study**

Join us for our 2022 Advent Study with *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* by Tracy S. Daub. We will meet every Sunday in Advent during the Sunday School hour beginning on November 27<sup>th</sup> (Advent 1). Books will be available from the office for \$11. Please register online ( <https://www.bethanypreschurch.org/advent-devotional-2022.html> ) or through the office by the Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> to ensure we have a book for you.

Please come prepared to discuss the first chapter on November 27<sup>th</sup>. They are pretty short and our discussions will be based on the reading. We will meet at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

### **November 27<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup> Advent**

Let Joy or me know if you're interested in being a candle lighter or reader in the Advent season

### **December 17<sup>th</sup> – 2022 BLUE CHRISTMAS DAY OF PRAYER**

Our sanctuary chapel will be open to the public on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 9pm for prayer.

The holidays are a time of great joy and celebration for many. However, for a lot of people, they can also be overwhelming, stressful, depressing, and a reminder of those who we have lost.

You are invited to come and pray and experience a space of quiet respite and sanctuary in the midst of all the holiday busyness.

We are looking for people to help us do this - one person to act as a host who will help people get to the sanctuary and one person who will sit in the sanctuary and pray with people as requested. The sign up is in the Narthex. Talk to Pastor Jon if you have any questions

### **Scouts Looking for Storage Space**

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:

2 camping trailers , 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).

Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9

(336) 675-9086 cell

[benes.nc@att.net](mailto:benes.nc@att.net)

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – Advent 3: Joy

9:45 – Advent Book Study in Fellowship Hall  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Advent 4: Love

9:45 – Advent Book Study in Fellowship Hall  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

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### Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp  
Helen Brown  
Tina Patterson

### Class of 2023:

Chip Allen  
Randy Cousins  
Shelby Smith

### Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell  
Kim Snyder  
Tracey Troxler

### Staff

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