



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 15, 2019 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent



*“As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
‘Joseph son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’”
Matthew 1:20-21 (CEB)*

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

A wise person once said, “Where the Bible is silent, do not put words in its mouth. But it is certainly ok to wonder what it might be trying to tell us simply by staying curious.” It is not unreasonable to believe that Joseph, a new dad blessed by God with the awesome responsibility of welcoming and raising a firstborn son conceived by the Holy Spirit, had some incredible thoughts that also were saturated with joy.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Once He Came Among Us*

D. PAXTON

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

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

Therefore, we light again the Candle of Hope.

[The Candle of Hope is lit.]

We light again the Candle of Peace.

[The Candle of Peace is lit.]

But why are we lighting a third candle?

We light a third candle for joy! [*The Candle of Joy is lit.*] The pink candle helps us remember Mary and the joyous good news that the angel brought to her.

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son. Joy to the world!

* **GATHERING SONG:** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (stanzas 1-3)

WAYNE WOLD

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.

We gather because we are waiting.

We are waiting for the coming of Christ anew.

We work because we are waiting.

We are waiting for a world of love and justice.

We worship because we are waiting.

We are waiting for God, whose glory is about to be revealed.

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

HYFRYDOL

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 1:20-24

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1170

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love.

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep.

The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives.

You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The messenger has been sent to us, proclaiming that there is One who is coming who will heal and lead us.

Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. 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 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: *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

TRADITIONAL CAROL

* **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

HYMN OF THE DAY #466: *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

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 WORD IN MUSIC: *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

ARR. R. DILWORTH

[Chorus]

*Jesus, Jesus Oh what a wonderful child
Jesus, Jesus he's so holy, meek and mild
New life, new hope to all He brings
Listen to the angels sing
Glory, glory, glory, to the newborn king
He was herald by the angels
Born in a lowly manger
God chose the virgin Mary, as His mother
And Joseph as His earthly father
Three wise men traveled from afar,
They were guided by that shining star
To see King Jesus where He lay
In a manger filled with hay
Some traveled north, some traveled south
To see this wonderful child.
Some traveled east, some traveled west
To see this wonderful child.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Joy*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #23: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

* SENDING

Let us journey into the world with our God,
to rebuild shattered hearts with hope.
Let us spend each day with Jesus,
mending brokenness with peace.
Let us share our hearts with the Spirit,
so we may be with those who are waiting for joy.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Light of Lights, Lord of Lords*

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 **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 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.

Today we continue our special Advent Series: **Away in a Manger**. The themes for each Sunday are listed below.

- 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

Our worship on **next Sunday, December 22nd** will continue our Advent series, but will center around a special program of Christmas music presented by our wonderful choir, under the direction of Christopher Bagley.

Mark your calendars for our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**, to be held on **Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 pm**. This is a service of carols, candles, communion, and the glorious proclamation of our Savior’s birth! Come, and be blessed.

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)

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

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 18th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 22nd:

- **ADVENT IV**
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 - Worship / with special Christmas program by our choir

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

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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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