



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 17, 2017 – 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

Every angel seems to use “do not be afraid” as an opening line. But perhaps no one needed to hear it more than Joseph. What was happening to him was the stuff that ruins lives. As a man, he had all the rights to abandon Mary and preserve his dignity. The stakes were high – who would believe this? Worrying about what might happen in the future can rob us of our #morejoy today. Let us be messengers of encouragement and steadfast support, as Joseph was, for that which the Spirit is birthing in the world.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

G. HOLST / ARR. C. BOYLES

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 key signature of one flat. The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note F4, and then a quarter note G4. The lyrics 'Do not be a - fraid.' are written below the notes. A double bar line with repeat dots follows. The second staff continues with a half note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note G4. The lyrics 'Do not be a - fraid.' are written below. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It starts with a whole note G4, followed by a half note F4, and then a quarter note G4. The lyrics 'Do not be a - fraid.' are written below. A double bar line with repeat dots follows. The second staff continues with a half note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note G4. The lyrics 'Do not be a - fraid.' are written below. There are asterisks above the first and fifth measures of each staff.

* PRAYER, CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Holy living God, blessed Jesus, guiding Spirit,

Alight within us your flame of joy this day.

[Advent Candle of Joy is lit.]

Grant us openness to hear your message.

Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world, creating more joy 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 #8: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Joy 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

O God, we are easily distracted and slightly jaded, and cannot believe Christ is almost here. There are still presents to be bought – never mind wrapped. There are parties to attend, cookies to be baked, trees to be trimmed.

Sometimes we cannot wait until all this hubbub is over. Where is the time to sit, to sleep – never mind to dream? We can get so caught up in the busyness of the season that we miss the gift the season is meant to be. We have heard the scriptures and stories so often that they have become white noise.

For our frenetic pace, for our exhaustion, for our tunnel vision, for our missing the wonder and awe of a baby born to fulfill promises made long ago, forgive us.

Restore to us the sense of surprise that you came to us as a little baby, unexpected, yet longed for. God of the visionaries and dreamers, may we always be ready to receive your gifts.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God comes to us in dreams and visions, in prophecies and affirmations, in longing and in hope, in salvation through a little child.

May we claim this promise for ourselves, and let God's healing love fill us. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

TRADITIONAL

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)
Fell like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

ARR. T. OSMAN

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *(to the tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

In this moment, we pray for all those who are in need of joy.

[You are invited to name aloud the names of people and places that are in need of joy this day.]

We hear the message of God,

Do not be afraid.

In this moment, we give thanks for all the ways we have experienced God's presence among us, in the words and actions that bring joy in the midst of fear.

[You are invited to turn your attention to the screen where there will be images of joy.]

For all who proclaim your reign on earth, we join their refrain,

Do not be afraid.

[Pastoral Prayer, followed by 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

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

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: Matthew 1:18-25 (adapted from *The Voice* translation)

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

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL / ARR. R. DILWORTH

(Chorus)

Jesus, Jesus, Oh what a wonderful child

Jesus, Jesus, So lowly meek and mild

New life, new hope, new joy He brings

Listen to the angels sing:

Glory, glory, glory to the new born 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 trav'lin from afar;
They were guided by that shining star
To see King Jesus where He lay
In a manger full of hay. (Chorus)
Some traveled north. Some traveled south
To see this wonderful Child.
Some traveled east, some traveled west
To see this wonderful Child. (Chorus)

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: DO NOT BE AFRAID: #MOREJOY

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* CLOSING WORDS

* CLOSING HYMN #40: *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Score

Do Not Be Afraid

worshipdesignstudio.com/angels

Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell
Arranged by Chuck Bell

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

H. BALCOMBE

* *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. 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.homileticsonline.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"** continues today. This is an engaging and creative look at Advent, so you don't want to miss any Sunday. Here are the dates and themes:

- Advent 1 – December 3rd: 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 – Today: 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**

Please plan to join us on **next Sunday, December 24th**, as our choir will present a special Christmas program, **"While the World Slept,"** by Jason Cox. This will be presented during our morning worship hour. Invite your friends for what will surely be a meaningful way to celebrate the season.

Make your plans also to gather with family and friends for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, at 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 24th**. This is always a meaningful culmination of our Advent journey as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Let's go Christmas Caroling! Join us this evening as we carry the joy of this Christmas season to some of our homebound members. We will meet here at the church at 4:00 and after caroling at a few places, will end up at John and Debbie's for food and fellowship!

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	Erick Russell	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: **El Bethel Presbyterian, Eden; University of North Carolina School of the Arts (Campus Ministry); Highland Presbyterian, Winston-Salem.** 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:

- **Third Sunday of Advent: #DoNotBeAfraid #morejoy**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Lighting of the Advent Candles
- 4:00 – Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, the 20th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 24th:

- **Fourth Sunday of Advent: #DoNotBeAfraid #morelove**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- **5:00 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**

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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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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