



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian



The Parable of the Sower

July 12, 2020 – 11:00, *the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

*He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed."
Matthew 13:3 (CEB)*

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*God of goodness and growth,
let your love be made real in me today.
Soften the hardened places of my heart
and crowd out any corners of greed or anxiety.
Make me be fruitful in thought, word, and deed. Amen*

PRELUDE: *THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME*

Gloria & William Gaither

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God's creation delights and astonishes.

Let the people pause and wonder!
God, the Creator, has made it all.
Let all creation shout and sing! Alleluia!

* OPENING HYMN: #339 *BE THOU VISION*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
Great God of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whate'er befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of life by the power of your Spirit come to us now.
Plow our hearts with your living Word
until we who are broken become fertile with your love,
for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting.
We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. **Amen.**

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 13:1-9; 18-23

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone..
Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1186

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

The Scriptures are shot through with stories of people just like us: men who grieved, women who questioned, siblings who did not get along, parents who chose favorites. God's word of grace is meant for people just like us. There is no need for pretense in this place. Let us go to God in prayer.
Faithful God, your word falls on hardened ground when our worldly anxiety and attachment to wealth crowd out your place in our lives.
Forgive our frail and human ways and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness, for you are our hope for deliverance. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

Hear the good news:
the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
dwells within you, encouraging you to new and abundant life.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace!
Thanks be to God.

Since we are justified by faith we have peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.)

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

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:

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to GOD.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of unending gifts,
we praise you for your abundant goodness.
As you are generous, we want to be generous too.
May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world,
so that all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. **Amen.**

* HYMN OF THE DAY: *IN THE GARDEN*

C. Austin Miles

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. [Refrain]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Parable of the Sower*

RICK PURCELL, CLP

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #539: SAVIOR, AGAIN TO THY DEAR NAME WE PRAISE**

John Ellerton

Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise.
We stand to bless thee ere our worship cease,
and now, departing, wait thy word of peace.

Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end the day;
guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy name.

Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
turn thou for us its darkness into light;
from harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

* **SENDING**

Go forth sowing the seed of God's new world,
and give thanks, for God will supply the growth.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

May you go forth in joy and be led back in peace
this day and always.

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

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).

Obviously, due to the ongoing health crisis surrounding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, we are not worshipping in person at this point in time, but rather gathering virtually using the Zoom meeting platform. Each week the congregation will be emailed a link by which everyone can join the meeting using their computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet. John will lead worship in this manner, and congregants are invited to participate as they are able. For those who are unable to connect via Zoom, we are also hoping to be on Facebook Live as well. We are still trying to work out some glitches in that.

For those unable to get the link via email, it will also be on our Facebook page, and on our website.

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. A **Video Recording** of our Zoom worship will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today's worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (homileticonline.com)

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Alex Thomas
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Katherine Bayliff and Family
Glenn Thompson
Carol Brooks
Lou Crutchfield

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Robert Sykes
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp
Jean Payne

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. (Classes will resume when we return to having church in person!)

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: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for July are **Bill Alpanalp** and **Chip Allen**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

Wednesday, the 24th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice (not meeting)

Sunday, the 28th:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27215

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

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

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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