



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian



Wheat or Weeds

July 19, 2020 – 11:00, *the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

“When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.”

Matthew 13:26 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Holy One, I awake into a sense of your presence with me.

*From time to time today, remind me that each day is a journey into the unknown
but that there is nowhere I can go where you are not with me.*

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth. Amen.

PRELUDE: *I SURRENDER ALL*

J.W. Van De Venter/W. Weeden

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

*** OPENING HYMN: #473 FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH**

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain]

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony,
linking sense to sound and sight,, [Refrain]

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God, the knowledge that you are always with us, never abandon us,
is truly too wonderful for us to comprehend. We can only give thanks
for your sure presence and ask to hear rightly your word
that guides, instructs, encourages and forms us. **Amen.**

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1187

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

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Trusting in God's mercy, let us acknowledge to ourselves and each other
those ways we fall short from what God intends for us, all of which God already knows.

Lord of all, we are quick to judge others, certain we know what is weed and what is wheat around us, even as we fail to see within us that which does not bear good fruit. We confirm our biases, listen only to those who agree with us and assume your will equates with our own. We confess that we do not like to acknowledge the many ways we fail to follow your commandment to love you and our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray, for forgetting that everyone is created in your image and therefore worthy of our compassion. In your mercy, amend what we are and shape us into the people you call us to be.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. We need not fear God's judgment but rather rejoice in the Lord's saving grace that frees and transforms us. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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:

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: Preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

(From "A Brief Statement of Faith")

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

We know that no one is like our God, who made heaven and earth, whose mercies are new every morning. In gratitude and praise we offer a portion of the resources entrusted to us as a sign of our loyalty and faith to the Lord of hosts, the first and the last.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, we give thanks to you with our whole hearts, mindful that you hem us in and hold us up. Even when the world feels chaotic and the future uncertain, we trust in your power to save, your promise to be a light unto our path. We pray that these gifts given in faith and thanksgiving will be used to encourage those lagging in hope and provide for those overwhelmed with worry. Bless and multiply these offerings so that all will know your goodness. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

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: *Wheat or Weeds*

RICK PURCELL, CLP

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #538: LORD, DISMISS US WITH THY BLESSING**

John Fawcett

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, Thy love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
for Thy gospel's joyful sound:
may the fruits of Thy salvation
in our hearts and lives abound:
ever faithful, ever faithful
to the truth may we be found.

So that when Thy love shall call us,
Savior, from the world away,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad Thy summons to obey:
may we ever, may we ever
reign with Thee in endless day.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
May the God of peace sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful and will do this. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

* *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 (homileticsonline.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	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
Alex Thomas	Katherine Bayliff and Family	Robert Sykes
Randy Thompson	Glenn Thompson	Ritchie Fishburne
Frederica Beatty	Carol Brooks	Janie Holt Clapp
Christopher Bagley	Lou Crutchfield	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 Abplanalp** 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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