



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian



"That Sinking Feeling"

August 9, 2020 – 11:00, *the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

"As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"
Matthew 14:30b(CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Holy God, the new day begins with such promise. Help me to enter into this day with joy and confidence in your power and goodness. Whatever challenge I may face, help me to trust in your presence, remembering that you are stronger than any difficulty or threat. Amen.

PRELUDE: MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

Lowell Mason

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

From hillside to lakeside
Jesus meets the needs of his friends.
Always surprising them and us
with his words and actions.
Always responding to our needs,
always there for us.
We gather to give thanks and praise
to the one who loves and cares for us.
We offer ourselves and this time
and invite Jesus to surprise us once more.

*OPENING HYMN: #411 *ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME*

RUTH DUCK

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your word is very near, on our lips and in our hearts.
As this Word is read and proclaimed, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
make it become in us the word of faith. Then send us in joy
to bring this word to others who also need the good news of salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 14:22-33

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1190

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

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

The psalmist tells us that when we turn to God in our hearts, God speaks peace to the faithful. As we turn to God in true confession of our sin, we trust in God, whose shalom makes us whole.

Lord, we long to draw close to you, but we are afraid. We are afraid to heed your summons for we do not know what awaits us when we step out in faith. We are wary of taking risks for your sake because the forces of chaos seem stronger than your assurances to us. We worry that we will not have enough faith in you or in the gifts you've given us to do the things you ask. Forgive us Lord, and save us. Reach out your hand, and lift us from our fear that we might follow you faithfully.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GRACE

Take heart; do not be afraid. For the Son of God saves us from the depths of sin and doubt and calls us to new and abundant life. 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: (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. continued on the next page p. 3 iStock.com/ArdeaA He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

Christ has freely given us the gift of grace and salvation.

Let us therefore freely bring our generous gifts of gratitude to him.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for your sustaining presence and abundant grace.
Receive now these gifts we bring to you out of your generous provision in our lives.
May they be used to satisfy the hungry in famine, relieve the oppressed in time of trouble,
and proclaim everywhere the good news of your Son, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

*** HYMN OF THE DAY: *Trust and Obey***

JOHN H. SAMMIS

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

[Refrain]

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: "That Sinking Feeling"

Rick Purcell, CLP

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *LOVE LIFTED ME*

I was sinking deep in sin,
far from the peaceful shore,
very deeply stained within,
sinking to rise no more;
but the Master of the sea
heard my despairing cry,
from the waters lifted me;
now safe am I.

[Refrain]

Love lifted me!
Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.
Love lifted me!
Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.

Souls in danger, look above,
Jesus completely saves;
he will lift you by his love
out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea,
billows his will obey;
he your Savior wants to be –
be saved today. [Refrain]

* CHARGE

Witnesses to something amazing, something unbelievable. Jesus walked on water. Witnesses to something frightening, someone's failure. Peter fell in. But Jesus reaches out to help his friend, and the waters calmed.

We go now to find ways of doing the same. Reach out and give someone a hand up this week.

* BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

* *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 (www.homileticonline.com)
- *the Presbyterian Outlook* (www.pre-outlook.org)

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	Mike Sutton	Alex Thomas
Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell	Steward Dillard
Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson	Shelvia Russell
Christopher Bagley	Glenn Thompson	Carol Brooks
Randy Thompson	Darrell Holmes	Ritchie Fishburne
Frederica Beatty		Janie Holt Clapp

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 August are **Tina Patterson** and **Ben Russell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

Wednesday, the 12th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice (not meeting)

Sunday, August 16th:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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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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