



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 26, 2021 – 11:00 am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“The Strength of Our Hope”



“This seed is God’s life-giving and enduring word. Thus,

*“All human life on the earth is like grass,
and all human glory is like a flower in a field.*

*The grass dries up and its flower falls off,
but the Lord’s word endures forever.”*

This is the word that was proclaimed to you as good news.”

1 Peter 1:24-25

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *God is So Good*

GREG SEWELL (TRADITIONAL MELODY)

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 a socially-distanced peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* **GATHERING SONG:** *Oh, How I Love Jesus*

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]

It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. [Refrain]

* **CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM Ps. 98)**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

OPENING HYMN #379: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

EDWARD MOTE

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne. **(Refrain)**

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION :

We trust you to speak and to enlighten our minds by the revelation of your written Word. You give us faith to know your mind and to obey your directions. We trust you for humility and zeal to glorify you and to have influence on our world for good. through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

PSALM 121:5-8

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 766

JOHN 5:18-23

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1296

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS (BASED ON LAM. 3)

When our focus is on our enemies, our problems, the judgment for our sins, when we focus on how to get over it, we lose your peace. We become bitter. We lose what happiness is. Our endurance for our own efforts has perished and our hope. So our souls are bowed down.

God in Community, Holy in One, we come to you as your people.

We call to mind your word and promises and therefore we have hope. Your steadfast and sure love never ceases. Your endless mercies are renewed every new day we start with you, Lord. Your faithfulness is so incredibly great! So we can hope in you, not our efforts.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

(1 Thes. 5:23-24 ESV) Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *I am Thine, O Lord*

FANNIE CROSBY

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

As the people of God gathered in these places, 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.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* A DOXOLOGY: *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

WILLIAM W HOW

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF THE DAY #446: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

JOHN NEWTON

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode;
on the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove;
who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near;
thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which he gives them when they pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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: *Give Me Jesus*

Randy Cousins - Soloist

JEREMY CAMP – TRADITION SPIRITUAL

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: 1 Peter 1:10-25

"*The Strength of Our Hope*"

REV. CHARLIE MURPHY

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN # 447: *Lead On, O King Eternal*

ERNEST SHURTLEFF

Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing
or roll of stirring drums
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal;
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us,
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might.

* SENDING

God sends us forth to speak a renewed hope,
so we will share hope and not defeat.

Jesus died for us to expect his victory and to share his salvation,
so we will praise him and put our hope in new ways to give people his hope.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

LANI SMITH/HYMN TUNE WEBB

* 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).

"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.**

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 **Live Stream** and a **Video Recording** of our Live Stream are available on our Facebook page and on our website.

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.

Bethany Members

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton

Katherine Bayliff
Pat Kennedy
Shelvia Russell
Eleanor Thompson

Barbara Cousins
Ruby Martin
Mike Sutton
Ida Whitney

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks
Bill Faucette
Christy Lutterloh
Norma Proctor
John & Ann Sutton
Randy Thompson

Janie Holt Clapp
Ben Johnson
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn

Jack Cook
Grace Johnson
Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Alex Thomas
Frank Wrenn

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

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) - NOT CURRENTLY MEETING DUE TO COVID
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 September are **Tina Patterson** and **Helen Brown**.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

John & Kim Snyder	September 18
Ron & Janine Osborne	September 22

Amy Kimrey	September 13
Kim Snyder	September 13
Hailee Thomas	September 16
Sandy Cook	September 18
Katherine Bayliff	September 19
Peggy Burwell	September 22
Kim Davis	September 23
Linda Abplanalp	September 24
Nancy Purcell	September 26
Glenn Patterson	September 29
Jay Fuller	September 30

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)

Sunday, October 3rd:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)



Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

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Staff

Transitional Pastor: Jon Phillips

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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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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