



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypresbyterian.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 26, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent



*“There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen,
and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus
who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table.
Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.”*

Luke 16:19-21 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Divine Word, You sent Moses to speak law to the people and bring order to chaos. You sent prophets to speak repentance and bring hope to the hopeless. You sent your son, Jesus, to become your living Word. Open our ears to hear your word, and our hearts to reflect the light of your truth to others, for the sake of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE: *When Jesus Wept*

F. RITTER

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 the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* GATHERING SONG: *Jesus, Remember Me*

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Jesus, Remember Me

227

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn 'Jesus, Remember Me'. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff of each system.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The word has come for us from God:

who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.

The word has come to us from Jesus:

who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.

The word flows to us from the Spirit:

who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* HYMN OF PRAISE #376: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

In God's presence, our lives are exposed, our words are shown for their hollowness, our need is revealed. Let us confess who we are, as we ask God to embrace us with grace and hope.

We need to confess, God of Abraham and Lazarus, how often we are not content with the simple gifts and lives you offer. Tempted by everything, we can become insensitive to those who have nothing. Encouraged by the world to accumulate more, we may miss the chance to gather your goodness and godliness. Chasing after all which has no value, we may not have the energy to pursue the faith, the love, the gentleness you have for us.

Forgive us, God of Reversals. You have sent the One who speaks the words we need to listen to in order to have life. Help us to remember how you have redeemed us, and in remembering, may we make that good confession that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, now and forever.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news that comes from God: I will hear your prayers, I will answer with hope and peace, I will deliver you from your sins.

God has covered us with grace; under God's hope we will find shelter. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: *We Are Forgiven*

TRADITIONAL / HAL HOPSON

447 We Are Forgiven

Musical score for 'We Are Forgiven' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of three staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second and third staves have a bass clef. The lyrics are: 'We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.' Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

EXCERPTED FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

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.

To whom do we belong?

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

In whom do we trust?

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.

In what do we rejoice?

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *What Wondrous Love is This*

ARR. L. SMITH

*** A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

Musical score for 'God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second through fifth staves have a bass clef. The lyrics are: '1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and end-less store, na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door: gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-fering up our-selves in praise; thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.' The score is a simple harmonic setting with a steady rhythm.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

HYMN OF THE DAY #80: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #324: *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

THE SPOKEN WORD

Lord, silence any voice but your own.

That we may hear you speaking to us on this day.

A Reading from Luke 16:19-31

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1273

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land*

ARR. G. BURLEIGH

*Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land.*

*Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in a time of storm.*

*I would not be a sinner. I'll tell you the reason why.
I'm afraid my Lord might call my name,
and I wouldn't be ready to die.*

*I would not be a backslider. I'll tell you the reason why.
I'm afraid my Lord might call my name,
and I wouldn't be ready to die.*

SERMON: VISION TEST

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN:** *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* (see next page)

WATERLIFE / JOHN C. YLVISAKER

*** LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF SIN**

We have been born into a world of sin. We hurt our neighbors, intentionally and unintentionally. We turn away from God. Sin is inescapable.

But so is grace. God calls us to repent and Jesus speaks to us, "Your sins are forgiven." We can let go of our sins and turn back to God, trusting in God's mercy and forgiveness.

As we extinguish this candle, we let go of our sins. We repent for all that we have done or left undone, and allow ourselves to be forgiven, so that we might respond by offering forgiveness to others and gratitude to God.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Faithful God, forgive us for turning away from you and others. As we journey toward the cross this Lenten season, help us to repent of our sin and to forgive others in the same way you have forgiven us. Amen.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*

488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no
 you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -
 see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es
 child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as
 light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."
 4 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.
 I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."



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, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.org)
- *Call to Worship* resource (PCUSA publication)
- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)

SINGERS NEEDED!! Our Lenten and Easter seasons will culminate on **Sunday, April 23rd** (the Sunday after Easter) as our choir presents Part II of Handel's *Messiah*. What a gift this will be for our church and community. If you would like to add your voice to this wonderful presentation, please see Chris.

Our worship this morning ends with our **Lenten Candle Liturgy**. Just as we light a candle each Sunday during Advent, leading up to Christmas, here we extinguish a candle each Sunday, leading up to Easter. Each candle represents a "letting go" of something that is holding us back from living life to the fullest. This morning we let go of sin.

On the last Sunday in January we marked the **Kickoff of our 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, ***Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher***. Mark your calendars for our other celebration events:

- **Sunday, May 28th** – **Rev. Norman Whitney**, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA)) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

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 Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

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	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Ron Chilton	Norman Mize	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Ben Johnson	Gail Sloane (friend of Joy Saleeby)	Gloria Carden Woods
	Family of Sandy Cook	

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: **Baird's Creek Presbyterian, Vilas; Yanceyville Presbyterian; Bixby Presbyterian, Advance; Buck Cochran, Executive Director, Peacehaven Farm.** 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 a study guide that correlates with the preaching text and themes that are used in our worship services.

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 March are **Karen Maxwell and Brandon Troxler.**

The congregation has been mailed a letter soliciting donations for replacement of our 40-some-year-old boiler! We are hoping that it will make it through the winter, so this work can be completed in the spring. Please see Ron Kimrey if you have any questions. And thanks in advance for your generosity.

Please take a moment to **check out our newly redesigned and updated website**. Note also the change in the domain name. Our new website can be found at **www.bethanypreschurch.org**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Wednesday, the 29th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, the 30th:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 23*

Sunday, the 2nd:

- FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey
Karen Maxwell
Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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