



Bethany Presbyterian Church

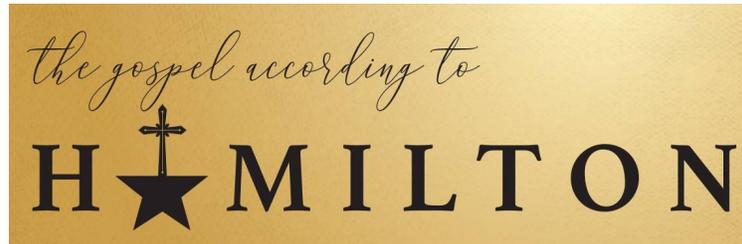
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 3, 2021 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Christmas



“Jesus replied, ‘Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?’ But they didn’t understand what he said to them.”

Luke 2:49-50 (CEB)

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.

PRELUDE: *Sing We Now of Christmas*

NATHAN CANE (FRENCH CAROL TUNE)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, hear the Christmas news:

Jesus Christ is born!

Come, sing the Christmas story:

Jesus Christ is born!

Come, worship the Christmas child.

Jesus Christ is born!

* OPENING HYMN: *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

MARTY HAUGEN / GATHER US IN

*Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young; our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-13

MATTHEW 13:1-9

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

You could let us continue to shuffle through the world's deserts, but you choose to walk with us beside the rivers of life. You could forget who we are, but you adopt us into your family, your children of hope and joy. You could decide we are not worth all the love or all the agony of caring, but you redeem us and make us whole. Blessed are you!

It was only the other day the angels were singing of your birth, and now, here you are, running swiftly toward us: to melt our frozen faith, to comfort us in our loneliness, to lead us into life in your kingdom. Blessed are you!

At the edge of a new year, we wonder what life will be like, and what do you do, Gathering Spirit? You water our parched souls with laughter; you teach dance steps to those too weary to tap their toes; you fill our emptiness with overflowing gladness! Blessed are you!

Blessed are we, God in Community, Holy in One, as we lift our prayers to you.

Have we really been to Bethlehem? Have we worshiped at the manger? Have we changed, for the better? Or have we simply gone back to being the people we were before the joy, the peace, the gifts of Christmas? Let us confess how we have not lived as those who have seen the Baby.

God of Christmas: we are still playing with our new toys, the manger figures have not been put away; we have the stacks of Christmas cards, but we memorize the words sin has taught us; we set limits on who we will love, we make promises we cannot keep, we fail to see the pain and hurt we cause.

God of the angels and shepherds, forgive us. Your Word has come to reshape our lives; your Light has come to show us the way home; your Son has come to make us your family. Have mercy and make us new people.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Like the Baby of Bethlehem, we are born anew. God's forgiveness cradles us; God's love is poured out on us.

What a marvelous gift - forgiveness! Filled with hope and new life, we can sing God's praises forever. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355: *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

* 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. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

*** THE DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF THE DAY #66: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (Refrain)*

*Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. (Refrain)*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)*

*Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)*

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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 IN MUSIC: *Epiphany Hymns: As With Gladness Men of Old*

C. KOCHER / W. B. MONK

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

C. COFFIN / G. WOODWARD

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.
As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.*

*What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King, glad tidings of our God to bring.*

*O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek Your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of Your light to use.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Legacy*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Jesus, Light of Joy*

LAUDA ANIMA

*Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let your splendid glory shine:
source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign.*

Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.

*Now the shadows fall around us; now the evening has begun:
still your gracious light is with us, brighter than the morning sun.*

Alleluia, alleluia, God of glory, Three-in-One.

With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might.

All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night:

alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.

* **SENDING**

As you go, remember the gift of God's Word.

We will tell of the good news to the world.

As you go, remember the simple graces of the bread and cup.

We will seek to feed those who hunger and thirst for life.

As you go, remember the gifts of oil and water.

We will live out our baptismal promises in all the days to come.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Sing Praises to the New Year*

HUMPHREY TURNER



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.

“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 **Video Recording** of our Zoom Worship and our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)

This morning we are excited to begin the new year with a new and challenging sermon series, ***The Gospel According to Hamilton***. The Broadway musical *Hamilton* was a smash hit and continues to inspire millions of people as it is streamed online, following historic attendance numbers not only on Broadway but in traveling shows. This musical is filled with amazing writing, but also with many themes that we will consider in connection with our faith. The series begins today, January 3rd, and will continue for seven weeks. If you have not had the chance to watch it, it is available on the Disney+ streaming service, for a very reasonable fee. Here are the themes for our series:

- **January 3rd - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Legacy***
- January 10th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Forgiveness*
- January 17th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: What Comes Next?*
- January 24th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Grace Changes Everything*
- January 31st - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: That Would Be Enough*
- February 7th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Take a Break*
- February 14th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story?*

Next Sunday service will include the **Installation of Officers**, as we install **Shelby Smith** to active service on the Session.

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
Shannon Russell
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Ida Whitney
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Pete Campbell

Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley
Karen Maxwell

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)

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 December are **Chip Allen** and **Tina Patterson**.

Please offer your thanks and appreciation to **Elder Karen Maxwell**, who is rotating off the Session and is also discontinuing her role as Clerk of Session. We appreciate her dedication to her church and to this important task.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - *The Gospel According to Hamilton Sermon Series - I*

Sunday, the 10th:

- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - *The Gospel According to Hamilton Sermon Series - II / Installation of Officers*

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

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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love learn serve



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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

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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