



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 5, 2025 – 11:00 am
Baptism of the Lord
Communion



"The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world." John 1:9

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. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Once in Royal David's City*

HUGH S. LIVINGSTON, JR. (BASED ON IRBY BY HENRY JOHN GAUNTLETT)

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #22:** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

JAMES MONTGOMERY

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light: **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING SENTENCES**

JEREMIAH 31

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

Proclaim, give praise, and say 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

Among them the blind¹ and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together;

A great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back.

***OPENING RESPONSE:**

This Little Light of Mine (one verse)

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand
To read in heaven the Lord's command.
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.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

WISDOM OF SOLOMON 10:15-16

Wisdom delivers a holy people from a nation of oppressors. She enters the soul of a servant of the Lord, withstanding dread kings with wonders and signs. As we confess that our strivings for Holy wisdom fall short, we lament the oppression of the nations. As we confess that we don't always act as though our servant souls are imbued by God's wisdom, we lament the power of dread kings. Let us offer, therefore, prayers of lament and confession.

Redeem your world, O Lord. We lament the destruction caused by worldly rulers extending their power through force. We lament the ways that the tendrils of oppression have taken hold among your people, your creation.

Redeem your people, O Lord. Too often, we fail to act in ways that reflect your love. Too often, we fail to speak your truth.

When it is easier for us to do nothing, help us act. When it is easier for us to say nothing, give us words to speak. Turn us away from sin, liberate us from the grasp of oppression, and lead us towards new life in Christ. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our Savior who brings hope:
You are enough.
You are forgiven.
You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

JOHN 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things came into being through Him.
As we read and reflect on your Scriptures, O Lord, we pray that your Spirit will move among us so that we might hear your Word, your light shining in the darkness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 1:1-18

PEW BIBLE, 1289

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *We Three Kings* Trio: Randy Cousins, Josh Williford, Glenn Patterson
(FROM JOHN PETERSON'S "CAROL OF CHRISTMAS")

THE WORD PROCLAIMED
"Enlightened"

RICK PURCELL, CRE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Victor Li Violin Solo Away in a Manger

***DOXOLOGY**

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CLOSING HYMN :** *Jesus, the Light of the World*

CHARLES WESLEY

Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

Joyful, all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. **Refrain**

Christ, by highest heav'n adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world. **Refrain**

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. **Refrain**

***SENDING**

JOHN 1:12

Children of God, go forth into the world and join God's work. May the God of all times and places continue to guide you here and now; may the Holy Spirit that swept over the waters of creation continue to give you strength; and may the light of Christ, through who all things came into being, continue to shine through each of you until we are all gathered together again. Go in peace.

POSTLUDE: *Sing Praises to the Changing Year*

HUMPHREY TURNER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, January 7th The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, January 7th at 10:30am in the Fellowship hall.

Saturday, January 11, 2025 4:00pm Organ Concert – Sanctuary

Join Us for an Enchanting Mid-Winter Evening of Organ Music!

Experience the majestic sounds of our organ as Drs. William Patrick Alston (Baltimore, MD) and Joby Bell (Boone, NC) take you on a musical journey through timeless classics and contemporary masterpieces. This unforgettable concert will feature fun and diverse music styles showcasing the incredible versatility and power of the pipe organ.

Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich and resonant tones of the organ. Whether you're a long-time fan or new to organ music, this concert promises to be a captivating experience for all.

Admission is FREE and all are invited for refreshments following the concert.

Tuesday, January 14th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30. Please stop by and “check-out” this wonderful service the library has to share

Thursday, January 16th Men of the Church

The Men of the Church will have their Annual Meeting and Oyster Stew on Thursday, January 16th at 6:00pm in the Recreational Building. Bring a friend and pass the word along to others. Need a ride? Let us know!

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **January**? They are asking for **Mac & Cheese and Canned Soup**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month. Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, January 5th – Baptism of the Lord, Communion & Pennies for Hunger
9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Tuesday, January 7th

10:30 - The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

Wednesday, January 8th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Saturday, January 11th –

4:00 – Organ Concert - Sanctuary

Sunday, January 12th – Second Sunday of Epiphany

9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27253

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – pastor4bethany@gmail.com

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – bethanypresmusic@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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