



Bethany Presbyterian Church

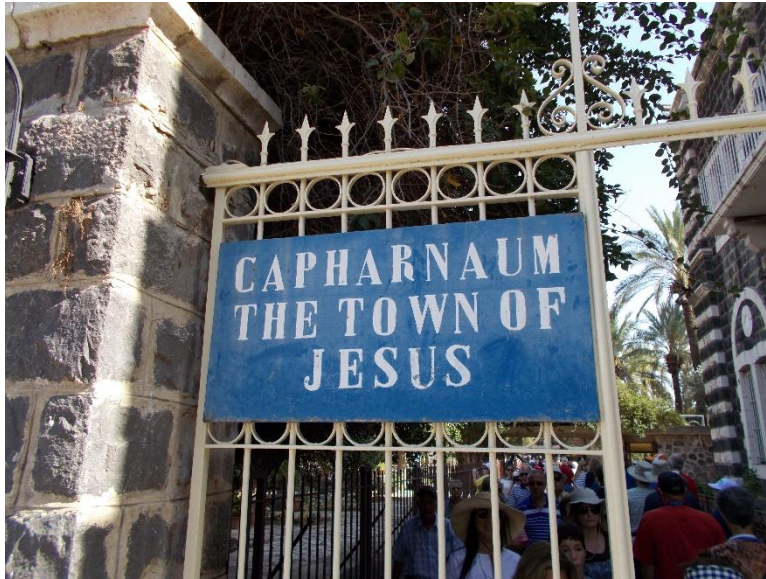
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 7, 2024 – 11:00 am

Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord



After a few days, Jesus went back to Capernaum, and people heard that he was at home. So many gathered that there was no longer space, not even near the door. Jesus was speaking the word to them.

Mark 2:1-2 (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. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, Winter: Liturgical Resources for November, December and January (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2016); and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Cradle Song*

EDWARD GRIEG

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #63:** *As With Gladness Men of Old*

WILLIAM C. DIX

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,

Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

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.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

*OPENING SENTENCES

"MARY REMEMBERS THE VISITORS," ELIZABETH CLARK

So many curious eyes eager to see this child.
Burly-bearded shepherds looming in that small space
awestruck as they stare at my baby.
Large, rough, calloused hands take him
and cradle him with amazing gentleness.
Slow smiles give way to joy as the angel's words are repeated,
dreamy faraway looks as they recall celestial songs.
Then they depart bubbling with joy that they long to share.
And later there is the rustle of silk and a whiff of incense
as tall regal men kneel before my child
and solemnly present gifts fit for a king.
The star has brought them to journey's end
and yet really their journey is only just beginning.

*GATHERING PRAYER

Everlasting God,
the radiance of faithful souls,
who brought the nations to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising:
Fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all the nations,
through him who is the true light
and the bright morning star,
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Saving God, source of our calling,
your Word is full of power and glory.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
so that we may receive your grace
and live as your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 103:6-14

PEW BIBLE, 744

MARK 2:1-22

PEW BIBLE, 1216

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

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

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***HYMN OF THE DAY #474:** *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

AMBROSE OF MILAN

O splendor of God's glory bright,
from light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light's living spring,
True day, all days illumining.

Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

O joyful be the passing day
With thoughts as clear as morning's ray,
With faith like noon-tide shining bright,
Our souls unshadowed by night.

O Lord, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see Our Savior
and our God in Thee!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

The voice of the one crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Trusting in God's grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves.

*Merciful God,
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.
We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from one another.
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome one another.
We allow the past to hold us captive.*

*In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,
and free us from sin.
Fulfill the promises of our baptism
so that we may rise to new life,
and live together in peace.*

Silence

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,
so, in Christ, God speaks to us:
You are my child, my beloved;
with you I am well pleased.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *This Little Light of Mine*

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.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: x

x

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"Capernaum: the Town of Jesus"***

RICK PURCELL

SACRAMENT OF 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

RICK PURCELL

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CHALKING THE DOORS

From the Book of Common Worship: "An old Epiphany tradition involves using chalk to write the letters CMB and the numbers of the current year, separated by crosses (+), over the doors of congregations and Christian homes: 20+C+M+B+24. The letters CMB are said to stand for the names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) or the Latin phrase Christus mansionem benedicat (Christ bless this house)."

God of doors and homes, bless this sanctuary this year and every year. Bless all who come and go through these doors, both those who live here and those who visit. May all who enter through these doors come in peace and bring joy. May all who come to these doors find welcome and love. May the love and joy in this home overflow and spread into the community and the world. And may Jesus the Christ watch over us all. **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #72: *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

FRED PRATT GREEN

When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon.
But as God's Holy One.

He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss;
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross.

So when the Dove descended
On him, the Holy One,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace begun.

***SENDING**

On this day that we remember
The baptism of Jesus,
may we too remember our baptisms
as we go forth from this place in love
to love. ***Amen.***

POSTLUDE: *Praise and Thanks for the New Year*

FRANKLIN RITER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, January 9th 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

Sunday, Jan 14th 9:45 Bible 101 Part 2: The New Testament – Evie C. Marshall Room

We're back next Sunday! With a brand New Testament! Join Jon and friends as we continue our Bible 101 survey of the Biblical text, focusing on how it is interpreted, its context, and its content.

Thursday, January 18th Men of the Church Annual Meeting & Oyster Stew 6:00pm Rec. Building

Bring a friend and pass the word along...If you need a ride, just let us know!

Sunday, February 4th Snow Ski with Scout Troop 9

Troop 9 invites any Youth and Family to Snow Ski February 4th

Whether you are a seasoned skier or rider or just looking forward to your first bunny slope, Winterplace offers something for everyone! This year marks the 22nd running of the Old North State Council's hugely popular Scouts on Skis program at Winterplace Ski Resort in Ghent, West Virginia. Located just two and a half hours north of Greensboro, the mountain is both convenient and challenging for all levels of skiers and riders. This year's basic package will have you zipping down the slopes in no time and comes complete with your lift ticket, ski rental, helmet rental and Ski School!! Meal vouchers are not included but can be purchased separately. More than 700 Scout families made the Scouts on Skis their choice for winter fun in 2023. I hope you will join us this season!!

\$80 Early Bird Ski Package (Retail value= \$160)

The Basic Ski Package includes:

All-Day Lift Ticket

Ski, Boots, Poles and Helmet Rental

90- Minute Group Lessons

MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Benes, benes.nc@att.net, (336) 675-9086

Sunday, December 31st 11:00am Christmas Brunch Church – Fellowship Hall

The first Sunday of Christmas. Join us for Brunch Church as we continue to celebrate Christmas and welcome in the coming year.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, January 7th – Baptism of the Lord & Communion

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

Wednesday, January 10th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 14th – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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