



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypresbyterian.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 8, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord



“When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness. Luke 3:21-22 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Jordan River has been drying up for quite some time. In the 1930s, for example, there were 1.3 billion cubic meters of water flowing down the river from the Sea of Galilee into the Dead Sea each year. Now that flow is down to 20 or 30 million, largely due to the fact that Israel, Jordan and Syria divert 98 percent of the water for their own uses in an area where there isn’t much water to begin with. The relative trickle that does flow between the Jordan’s banks is highly polluted, as raw sewage flows into it from places such as the Alumot Dam. (- from Homiletics Online.)

PRELUDE: *The Holy Light*

G. BLAKE

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: *Down to the River to Pray*

ALISON KRAUSS

(Solo) *As I went down to the river to pray studying about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way!*

*O sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down
O sisters let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

(Choir) *As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way!*

*O brothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down
O brothers let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

(All) *As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way!*

*O fathers let's go down, let's go down, come on down
O fathers let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

*As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way!*

*O mothers let's go down, come on down, don't you wanna go down?
O mothers let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

*As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord who me the way!*

*O sinners let's go down, let's go down, come on down
O sinners let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

*As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way!*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Baptized to begin lives of faith,
we would witness to all you do in our communities, in our midst, in our world.
Baptized to serve,
we would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to those who have none.
Baptized to speak,
we would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.
Baptized to do what is right,
we would not play favorites, but treat each as your Beloved.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* HYMN OF PRAISE: #423: *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

DUKE STREET

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Your voice thunders in the night, and sings love songs in the morning. Your voice tumbles raging rapids, and ripples pools of peace. Your voice snaps trees in two, and can mend broken hearts with a sigh. We give glory to your name, God of our lives.

Guided by grace, you became the champion of justice. Beloved of the sightless, you release those we would shackle. Broken for our sake, you shape our souls into silhouettes hanging in the Hall of Servants. We give glory to your grace, Child of the waters.

You cup your hands around our flickering faith, breathing us to new life. You call us to work for justice, teaching us intentional acts of service. You immerse us in courage, daring us to speak words of hope. We give glory to your love, Spirit of wonder.

We give you the glory now and always, God in Community, Holy in One.

Can you imagine a God who would rather forgive us than punish us, who calls us 'my delight,' rather than chiding us for being so foolish and wayward? This is why Jesus came, so we might know of God's tender mercy toward us. Let us confess our lives to the One who fills us with hope, as we pray together, saying,

We try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives, for we know how disruptive he can be. He wants us to preach the gospel with our lives, but we prefer to complain how hard that is to do. He wants us to do what is right, yet wrong-doing comes so easily for us. He would like us not to give up until justice is done, but we just don't seem to have the time.

We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you. Bathe us in the life-giving waters of your mercy so we can come up from the water, ready to do good for others, to give you all the praise, to learn justice, grace, and hope from your Servant, Jesus Christ.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

You are God's Beloved. You delight God's heart. Believe this good news, my friends!

The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace. Thanks be to God! 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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

TRADITIONAL

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

BEACH SPRING

*Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb.
Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.
Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!*

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

*Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.*

ROBERT CULL / DAVID ALLEN

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 3:7-22

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1247

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man*

BRAHMAN / WILLIAMS

*Jesus, Jesus, Son of God and Son of man;
Jesus, Jesus, Savior of the world.
Jesus, Jesus, Came to earth a tiny babe;
Jesus, Jesus, Came to save us all.
He left the glory of heav'n above to walk the dust of the earth.
He was born in a lowly manger, yet angels sang at His birth.
Jesus, Jesus, Son of God and Son of man;
Jesus, Jesus, Savior of the world.
Jesus, Jesus, Came to serve, not to be served;
Jesus, Jesus, Came to set us free.
Jesus, Jesus, Crucified upon a tree;
Gave His life willingly, died for you and me.
He was not just a man from Galilee who was a carpenter by trade.
But He was the precious promised one, He was the Son of God.
Jesus, Jesus, Rose in triumph from the grave;
Jesus, Son of God, Savior of the world.*

SERMON: ***A DANGEROUS BAPTISM***

REV. JOHNSON

RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*As directed by the pastor, all those who wish may come forward to the font to
Renew and Reaffirm our Baptismal Covenant.*

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* CLOSING HYMN: *Sing! A New Creation*

EBENEZER / BRUMM/WILLIAMS

*Sing! A new creation calls us: God's Son, first-born from the dead,
Makes the drowning which befalls us into cleansing birth instead.
Singing water, wild with wonder, washing, more than what it seems,
Baptizes and drags us under, lifts us as our Christ redeems.
Sing anew! Creation flowers as the Spirit draws us near,
Safe from storming, earth-bound powers on this ark, though tossed by fear.
Sing as family, filled, forgiven, fed by joyous table grace.
Baptized, we receive God's leaven, rising in our time and place.
Sing a new creation growing life-trees by the Father's stream.
Go and teach, send justice flowing, quench dry souls, compose a dream.
Sing amens, alive and agile, answering God's creating song.
Baptize peoples, parched and fragile, in the Name that makes us strong.*

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *A New Year's Song*

R. HUGHES

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



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.bethanypresbyterian.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.com)
- Homiletics Online website (www.homileticonline.com)
- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)

Our worship this morning includes a **Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant** as we remember today the baptism of Jesus Christ. Following the sermon, all those who desire may come to the baptismal font, receive the sign of the cross using water from the font, and also receive a small token of remembrance.

The Session has called for a **Congregational Meeting** to immediately follow worship on **TODAY**, for the purpose of approving the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and Session regarding changes in the Terms of Call of the Pastor.

Two weeks from today on **Sunday, January 22nd**, our worship will include the **Service of Ordination and Installation** for our Elders in the Class of 2019. **A. J. Campbell** will be ordained and installed, and **Jean Payne and Ron Osborne** will be installed.

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)

The **Men of the Church** will hold their annual **Oyster Stew on Thursday, January 19th at 6:00** in the Rec Building.

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette
Faye Campbell
Frances Nolan
Joey Leake
Diane Bullis
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Polly & Dick Wilson
Layla Benoklen
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Harold Baldwin
Duffy Strigo

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Dr. Bob James
Teresa Wilborn
Ida Whitney
Rachel Poteat
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Ron Chilton

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 January are **Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell.**

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 12:00 – Congregational Meeting

Monday, the 9th:

- 10:00 – Circle #1
- 7:00 – Circle #3

Tuesday, the 10th:

- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 11th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Thursday, the 12th:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 13*

Sunday, the 15th:

- 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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