



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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January 8, 2023 – 11:00 am

Baptism of the Lord

1st Sunday of Epiphany



"Adoration of the Magi," Paula Modershon-Becker (1907)

When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

Matthew 3:16-17 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Happy New Year! 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 Productions, 2016). Please note that there will be a congregational meeting after the service to elect a Nominating Committee for the election of new elders for the class of 2025.*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, we are raising,
Worshipping 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)**

***EPIPHANY PRAYER**

We come to this moment, we have travelled so far,
like long ago wise men who were led by a star.
The roads we have taken are the days of the year,
and some have been joyous and some full of fear.

We come to this moment, we come as we are,
with all that has happened we bear the year's scar.
But here there is welcome, no more need we roam:
in the birth of the Christ child our hearts have come home.

This moment's eternal, it's endlessly new,
God's presence amongst us is endlessly true.
How awesome the silence in which can be heard
the hope and the peace of the incarnate Word.

This moment's to treasure, it's wonder, it's praise!
Enthralled by such gifting, we can only gaze.
How small is this life-light, how bright and how clear,
a star for our journey as year succeeds year.

Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 2:7-8

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 665

MATTHEW 3:17

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1172

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

***DOXOLOGY #593:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #458:** *Earth and All Stars*

HERBERT FREDERICK BROKERING

Earth and all stars,
Loud rushing planets,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain,
Loud blowing snowstorms,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!

Steel and machines,
Loud pounding hammers,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams,
Loud building workers,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!

Classrooms and labs,
Loud boiling test tubes,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band,
Loud cheering people,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!

Knowledge and truth,
Loud sounding wisdom,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son,
Loud praying members,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"STRANGERS AT THE DOOR BRINGING GIFTS," FIONA VAN WISSEN

Do we hear the knocking at the door?
Do we open the door?

Are we afraid?
Or are we ashamed the house is a mess?

Do we welcome the stranger?
Do we recognize the gifts they bring?
Do we trust their story?
Do we accept the gifts they have brought from afar?
Do we allow them to change us?
Do we realize that only by opening the door
we will recognize the true Christ,
the God who is hidden in smallness,
who arrives in unexpected places, at unexpected times?

***Do we hear the knocking at the door?
Who will open the door?
Who will open the door?***

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

"NEW ROADS," RUTH BURGESS

When the star had stopped
and they have seen the baby
they took a new road.

When the decorations come down
and we have heard the story
we can take a new road.

New roads can be scary.
New roads can be exciting.
New roads are risky.
It is time to go.

***Star-maker,
Light-bringer,
Holy Spirit of adventure,
come with us this morning on our road. Amen.***

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Homily: *"Epiphanies"*

REV. PHILLIPS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

"TO LIVE OUT OUR BAPTISM PROMISE," LIZ CRUMLISH IN "SPILL THE BEANS"

God, so often in baptism
we celebrate the gift of new life:
life that is conceived in love
and received with joy.

Our children are, on the whole,
nourished and fed,
nourished and cared for,
their whims indulged,
their exuberance encouraged.

May we be forced out of our
shroud of privilege and materialism to see
how things are so different
for children throughout the world.

Where the ravages of the earth prevent
access to good food and clean water;
where the ravages of war enforce a
nomadic existence and constant fear;
where the ravages of human failings lead
to neglect and abuse.
God, these too are your beloved children.

So help us to care,
to interfere
and to intervene
to live out our baptism promise,
to welcome and share God's love
with all God's children. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Ps. 34:8

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

O taste and see that the Lord is good!
Happy are all who find refuge in God!

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*
Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise...
...and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

You are holy, O God of majesty
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

...For great is the mystery of faith:
*Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again...*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

So now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray in the language we are most familiar with, saying:

*...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.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

These are the gifts of God
for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have fed us with your mercy
and poured out your Spirit in this place.
Continue to nourish and fill us each day,
that we may live as your beloved people;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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+23. 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 #70:** *Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized*

F. BLAND TUCKER

Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on You came,
As peaceful as a dove and yet
As urgent as a flame.

God called you, "My beloved Son,"
The suffering servant true,
Sent You the Kingdom to proclaim,
God's holy will to do.

Straightway and steadfast until death,
You then obeyed God's call,
Freely as Son of God to serve
And give your life for all.

Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
Your cross on us be signed,
That, likewise in God's service, we
May perfect freedom find.

***SPOKEN CHARGE**

"IN OUR HEART A DREAM," ALBERT KLOK

Let us go from here,
in our heart a dream
of a world without hatred
without anguish
without violence
without greed.

Let us go on the path of the dream
that the Kingdom is near
in today's world.

A dream which God has planted in us.
A dream which we must caress and pass on.

Let us dream that dream
and live that dream
and God will be with us.

***SUNG BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

January 8th – Baptism of the Lord/Epiphany Sunday

We will celebrate the new year with a service that will include the Sacrament of Communion and once again we'll chalk the doors, just like we did last year. We will also hold a brief Congregational Meeting to elect a Nominating Committee for this year's class of Elders.

January 19th – Men of the Church – Oyster Stew

Bethany's Men of the Church are having an Oyster Stew for the men on Thursday, January 19th at 6:00pm in the Recreational Building. Please make plans to attend this good eats and fun time!

January 29th - Brunch Church

It's our first Fifth Sunday of the year. We will celebrate with a Brunch Church service at 11. Invite your friends!

Invitation to Snow Ski

You are invited to Snow Ski with the Scouts of Troop 9. Lessons provided, Learn to Ski, and have a Great Time. Contact Jeff Benes for more details and to sign up.

Jeff Benes
Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

Scouts Looking for Storage Space

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:
2 camping trailers , 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).
Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, January 8th - 1st Sunday of Epiphany

11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)
Congregational Meeting after Service

Wednesday, January 11th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 15th - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

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

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

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