



Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

January 10, 2021 – 11:00 am
Baptism of the Lord



"They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.'"
Luke 23:32-34a (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

O God, some of us are discouraged and long for your embrace.

Wash us with your love.

Some of us are weary, weighed down by the desperation of this world.

Wash us with your hope.

Some of us are anxious and seek refuge from chaotic lives.

Wash us with your peace.

Some of us are restless, yearning for renewal or transformation.

Wash us with your grace.

However we come into your presence, pour out your Spirit upon us.

Let us come to the waters of baptism. Let us worship God!

* OPENING HYMN #461: *God Is Here!*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.*

*Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 23:32-43

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

The voice of the Lord that thundered over primeval waters to call forth life echoes over these waters, calling us to repentance, calling us to righteousness, calling us to new life. Heeding the voice that called us into being, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

God of grace, You claim us as beloved children and call us to follow you, but we do not always live out this calling. We stifle the gifts you have given us rather than using them for your glory. We sidestep opportunities to offer kindness rather than showing love to our neighbors. We pretend we can do nothing to further justice in our world and shy away from taking risks for the sake of the gospel. Forgive us, Lord.

Wash us again in the waters of baptism and transform us by your grace, so that our words may further righteousness and our deeds be pleasing in your sight. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who offers us new life.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

As the voice from heaven spoke when Jesus emerged from Jordan's waters, so God speaks to us: *"This is my child, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased."* Sisters and brothers in Christ, the God who claims us in the waters of baptism upholds us, delights in us, forgives us.

Glory be to the God of grace! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! 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.*

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

PRESENTATION OF ELDER-ELECT

* PROFESSION OF FAITH

As God calls some to particular forms of ministry, God calls us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of Baptism. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and eternal God . . . By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

Amen.

Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, the members of the church, accept Shelby as a ruling elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

WELCOME AND CHARGE

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

OLD HUNDREDDTH

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

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

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The Gospel According to Hamilton: Forgiveness***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN #525:** *Here I Am, Lord*

DANIEL L. SCHUTTE

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

Refrain:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

*** SENDING**

Baptized, let us go to live in faith.

We will bring healing to the broken and offer God's joy to those who grieve.

Baptized, let us go to serve.

At the side of Jesus, we will serve the hungry, we will give shelter to the homeless.

Baptized, let us go to be a voice.

We will echo the Spirit of calling for peace, we will never stop speaking against injustice.

Baptized, let us go to do what is right.

Finding you, God of all people, waiting for us to join you beside all your beloved children.

* **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)

Our service this morning includes the liturgy for the **Installation of Officers**, as we install **Shelby Smith** to active service on the Session.

This morning we continue our 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. 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?*

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 January are **Ben Russell** and **Bill Abplanalp**.

The **Session** is reminded of their regular monthly stated meeting this **Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 pm via Zoom**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 11th:

- 7:00 - Winter Virtual Bible Study (via Zoom)

Tuesday, the 12th:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting (via Zoom)

Sunday, the 17th:

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