



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

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January 12, 2025 – 11:00 am

*Baptism of the Lord*



"John replied to them all,  
"I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming.  
I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Luke 3:16

## 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:** *The Holy Light*

GEORGE BLAKE

**WELCOME**

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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*OPENING SENTENCES

ISAIAH 43:1

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
***Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.***

### \*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.

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

\*HYMN OF THE DAY #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.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

We belong to God. Nothing can break this covenant. Let us, then,  
With confidence approach God to honestly confess our sins in prayer.

***God, you call us to beloved community with you and with each other. But we exclude and reject those we deem different. You claim us as beloved, but we turn against each other in anger and hate. You liberate us and lead us in Christ's path of peace, but we build walls and invest in guns and dismiss peace as impractical and unrealistic. Redeeming God, forgive our worldly ways. Call us and claim us once again for the work of building your beloved community. Amen.***

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Our God is loving, just and merciful. God delivers us from sin and restores us by grace.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Help us, Holy God, to connect to your word anew. Open the Scriptures  
to us in a way that is life-giving. Encourage us to listen to the message  
your Spirit makes known in word and worship. ***Amen.***

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 29**

PEW BIBLE, 684

**LUKE 3:15-17; 21-22**

PEW BIBLE, 1248

The Word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Soloist: Carmen Martin*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"the Messiah"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

\*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

\*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**

Remember, you are God's beloved,  
called and claimed to love as you have been loved.

May God bless you and keep you, this day and in the days to come.  
Amen.

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

ROBERT J. HUGHES

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>      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 16<sup>th</sup>      Men of the Church**

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

### **Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>      The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month.  
Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

## **This Week's Calendar:**

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of the Lord

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

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

Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – Choir Practice

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

6:00 – Men of the Church Annual Meeting & Oyster Stew – Recreational Building

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

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

# bethany presbyterian

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

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## Staff

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**Director of Music:** Christopher Bagley – [bethanypresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bethanypresmusic@gmail.com)

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