



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 14, 2024 – 11:00 am
Second Sunday after Epiphany



"Tufted Titmouse Eating Seeds," lexbug11

He continued, "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade." Mark 4:30-32 (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, Acorns and Archangels: Resources for Ordinary Time (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2009); and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Teach Us The Word*

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #411:** *Arise, Your Light is Come*

RUTH DUCK

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God,
Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Build up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

*OPENING SENTENCES

JOHN 1:36, 39

Look, here is the Lamb of God!
Jesus calls us: Come and see.

Let us worship our God!

*GATHERING PRAYER

"GOD OF EVER-NEW BEGINNINGS," NORMAN SHANKS

God of ever-new beginnings,
God in whom past, present and future perpetually coalesce,
as a new year unfolds before us,
through the dark days of January,
through the vagaries of the weather,

*though storm, flood, ice or snow may unsettle us,
though personal difficulties may beset us,*

help us always to remember
*that your light shines through the deepest darkness,
that your love surrounds and summons us,
that your life is stronger than death itself,*

*and that your grace sustains us
and is sufficient for all our needs. Amen.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"OPEN," TERI PETERSON

Open your good news to us, O God... and open us to your good news,
that we may find ourselves in your abundant life.
Speak, Lord, and help us to listen. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 126

PEW BIBLE, 767

MARK 4:1-34

PEW BIBLE, 1219

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 #68** *What Star is This, With Beams So Bright*

CHARLES COFFIN

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand
To read in heaven the Lord's command.

O Jesus, while the star of grace
Impels us on to seek Your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of Your light to use.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"QUITE A MESS," LAURA VIAU

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

We come to you conflicted, Lord. We want to be a people who love well, turn the other cheek and generously share what you have given us. But we find ourselves needing to be right, striving to win the argument and keeping a tight grip on both our stuff and your good news. We are afraid to be vulnerable and frightened by too much honesty in others. Gathered like this, we must look like quite a mess... a mess that only your grace can put right. We come in need of your faithfulness, your cleansing, your healing, your forgiveness.

Silence

Open our eyes to your presence. *Loosen our grip so that you might be in control. Love us most clearly through the ones with whom we have fought, so that the body might regain health and wholeness. Amen.*

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

"

I proclaim to you in the name of our loving God that:
You are enough.
You are forgiven.
You are loved.

Alleluia! 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: *With Grateful Hearts*

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THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Seeds, Lamps, and More Seeds"*

REV. PHILLIPS

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.*

*CLOSING HYMN #543: *Abide With Me* (verses 1,3,4)

HENRY FRANCIS LYTE

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

***SENDING**

COL. 3:12-14

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, and peace, forgiving one another,
and crown all these things with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ***Amen.***

POSTLUDE: *A New Year's Song*

ROBERT J. HUGHES

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

We're back this 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!

Tuesday, January 30th 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, 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

This Week's Calendar:

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)

Monday, January 15th – Holiday - Church office closed

Wednesday, January 17th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 21st – 3rd 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

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

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Staff

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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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