



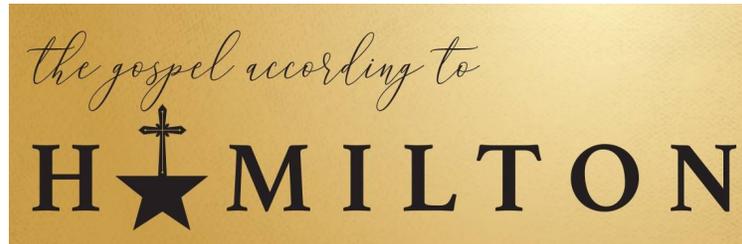
Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 17, 2021 – 11:00 am
Second Sunday after Epiphany



*"I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child,
you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 18:3 (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: *The Lord's My Shepherd*

PATRICIA LOU HARRIS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Young or old, slow or fast; tall or small, know-it-alls or eager learners:

Wonder of wonders! God has called each of us here.

Wrinkled, white-haired, stooped with age; bright-eyed, smooth skinned, leapers of two steps at a time:

Wonder of wonders! Each of us is made in God's image.

Parents volunteering at school, kids playing tag; workers stocking shelves, retirees planning a trip:

Wonder of wonder! God works through each of us.

* OPENING HYMN #411: *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

*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,
bind up the brokenhearted 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.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 18:1-5

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

It doesn't matter how far we go to run from you, you reach out and touch us with healing in your hands, and turn us around so we can follow you home.

It doesn't matter how suspicious we are of you, you remove our fears with your compassion, you take away our doubts with complete acceptance of who we are.

It doesn't matter how often we ignore your words, you whisper to us until our ears tingle with anticipation and we listen with eager hope.

God in Community, Holy in One, continue to call us by name.

We break our word - God knows; we hurt another - God knows; we ignore the needy - God knows. God also knows the sins we try to hide, even from ourselves.

How foolish we are to think we can hide our failings from you. We treat our bodies as trash cans for junk food, not as sanctuaries for your Spirit. We get drunk on the seductions of our society, while daintily sipping at your living water. We doze under the tree of temptation, hoping you won't see us and expect us to get up and follow Jesus.

Forgive us, our heart's only Hope. Your grace mends our brokenness, making us whole; your compassion removes our sin, making us new; your voice speaks tenderly to us, silencing our pride; your Love is made human in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, redeeming our lives.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In front of us, behind us, to our right, to our left: look! God is there! In our past, beside us today, waiting in the future: look! God is there! in the shadows, in the light: look! God is there!

From the top of the mountains, to the bottom of the seas; in the morning, in the evening, in every moment: God is with us! 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.*

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

As the people of God gathered in these places, who are we?

We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.

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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

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

OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;*

*Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Will You Come and Follow Me*

KELVINGROVE

*“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

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: *There is a Balm in Gilead*

TRADITIONAL TUNE / ARR. RAYMOND WISE

SYLVESTER ALLEN, SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Gospel According to Hamilton: What Comes Next?*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN:** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

SHOWALTER

*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.*

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)*

* **SENDING**

Wonder of wonders! God sends us out into the world,

to be healing hands to the world's brokenness.

Wonder of wonders! Jesus calls us as sisters and brothers,

to accept others as completely as we have been embraced.

Wonder of wonders! The Spirit is at work through us,

wherever we are - work, home, playground, shelter, school.

Wonder of wonders!

We will go to live as God's people!

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *The Power and the Glory*



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)

What a treat it is to welcome back to Bethany our friend **Sylvester Allen** who will be singing for us this morning.

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
Stewart Dillard

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Ida Whitney
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson

Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

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.

The **Virtual Winter Bible Study** continues to meet each Monday evening at 7:00 via Zoom.

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 has called for a **Congregational Meeting and a Meeting of the Corporation** to take place immediately following worship on next **Sunday, January 24th**, for the purpose of approving the sale of church-owned property, and electing officers of the corporation.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 18th:

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

Sunday, the 24th:

- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - *The Gospel According to Hamilton Sermon Series - IV*
- 12:00 - Congregational Meeting and Meeting of the Corporation

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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Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org
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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