



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 18, 2026 – 11:00 am
Second Sunday after Epiphany



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:

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #326:** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

GEORGE CROLY

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength and mind?
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.
Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.

Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.

Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.

Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.

Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!

GATHERING PRAYER

(ISAIAH 49, 1 CORINTHIANS 1)

Holy One, may our spirits be polished arrows in the quiver of your searching love.

May our words ring true with shouts of praise.

Use us, Gracious God, as instruments of your mercy and compassion.

Fashion us into vessels of your abiding Spirit, that a world torn by brokenness and pain might touch your healing love through our fellowship with you and with one another. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH)

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

*HYMN OF THE DAY #276: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

THOMAS O. CHISHOLM

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **(Refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

(BASED ON PSALM 40)

Saving God, we confess that we often have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions and individual strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices and offerings, rather than offering our lives to you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(BASED ON PSALM 40)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, reveal yourself to us once again as we hear your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to follow where you lead, and to answer your call. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 40:1-11

PEW BIBLE, 694

JOHN 1:29-42

PEW BIBLE, 1290

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Just As I Am, Without One Pea*

ARR BY LYNNETTE MAYNARD

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Come and See"*

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 #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.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***CLOSING HYMN #398:** *There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

DORIS AKERS

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." (**Refrain**)

***SENDING**

Go and see! God is at work all around us.
Go and see! Jesus invites us to follow.
Go and see! The Holy Spirit sends us out, empowered, renewed, inspired and equipped to do our part.
Let us go and see, in power and in peace, to share God's love with all.
The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of our parent God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit are with us, today and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE:

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room

Exercise classes will start back after the first of the year on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Thursday, January 22nd Men of the Church

The Men of the Church will have their Annual Meeting and Oyster Stew on Thursday, January 22nd at 5:30pm in the Recreational Building. Bring a friend and pass the word along to others. Need a ride? Let us know!

Tuesday, February 3rd 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, February 3rd at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, February 3rd Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The 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.

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **Winter months**? They are asking for **Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice and Spaghetti. Breakfast items (Cereals, Granola Bars, Oatmeal, Breakfast Bars), Children and Adult diapers and Feminine products.**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, January 18th - Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

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

Monday, January 19th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Church office closed

Wednesday, January 21st

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 – Choir Practice

Thursday, January 22nd 5:30pm Men of the Church Annual Meeting & Oyster Stew

Sunday, January 25th - Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

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

Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2028:

Helen Brown

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Nancy Purcell

bethany presbyterian

worship serve teach support



1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27253

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – pastor4bethany@gmail.com

Director of Music: – bethanypresmusic@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.