



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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January 21, 2024 – 11:00 am

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*



"Mosaic of the Exorcism of the Gerasene Demoniac,"  
Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, ca. early 6th century.

Go home to your own people," Jesus said, "and tell them what the Lord has done for you and how he has shown you mercy." The man went away and began to proclaim in the Ten Cities all that Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed. Mark 5:19b-20 (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:** *Daybreak*

GARY DAVIDSON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*OPENING HYMN #482:** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

JOACHIM NEANDER

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

#### \*OPENING SENTENCES

"COME AMONG US," THOM SHUMAN

With friends and strangers, with family and neighbors, we gather:  
***Come among us, Healing God, with that love which never ends.***

With faith reaching out to touch, with hearts straining to trust, we hope:  
***Come among us, Friend of the broken, with your compassion which makes us how.***

With word and wonder, with silence and song, we wait:  
***Come among us, Drier of our tears, to lift us to our feet to follow you.***

Let us worship our God!

#### \*GATHERING PRAYER

"AS THE SUN REVIVES," KATY OWEN

God of all seasons, in the dreich, wet, cold and windy days of winter  
our spirits long for the warmth and comfort of spring.

As the sun revives and brings life to the whole of creation  
so we long to be part of that renewal and rebirth.

Hear our prayer for the reawakened hope and love and peace  
in ourselves and in our world.

And hear our songs of gratitude and praise as we join together with one voice  
in the universal song of love. ***Amen.***

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

#### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"BEYOND YOUR WORDS," SCOTT CERVAS

As we read the words of scripture,  
we are pointed to your living Word who walked among us;  
and we are surrounded by your Spirit,  
who whispers words within our hearts and minds.  
Inspire us in our hearing and reflecting,  
that we may move beyond your words  
into live-changing acts of grace, love, hope, and peace. ***Amen.***

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 89:1-4**

PEW BIBLE, 734

**MARK 5:1-20**

PEW BIBLE, 1220

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 #387:** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

WILLIAM B. BRADBURY

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to Thee.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor;  
Early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
Eith Thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"BY STILL WATERS," THOM SHUMAN

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

We wander from hope to hope, thinking the next person, the next book, the next new thing will lead us in the ways in which we long to live. Yet, if we open our eyes and pay attention, we will see the Good Shepherd, the One who will bring us into the kingdom of God's mercy and hope, even as we confess all the foolish mistakes we have done, and all the wrong turns we have made. Join me, as we pray saying:

***You long to fill us with your comfort and peace, Still Waters of Grace, but we continue to take on more anxiety, more worry, more fear. You would comfort us in the gentleness of your hope, but we welcome the embrace of a world spinning more and more out of control. You would feed us with more than we need, but we continue to hunger for the sweet sensations offered to us by temptation. You keep your promises and offer us forgiveness and mercy all the days of our life. May we keep our eyes focused on the path you have shaped for us; may we listen to the call of the Good Shepherd who leads us into your joy, that kingdom prepared for us by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.***

*Silence*

#### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news: wherever we are, God is with us; whoever we are, God forgives us, and offers us new life.  
***Surely goodness and mercy are the companions we have been longing for, faithful friends as we continue our journey as God's people. Amen.***

#### 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: *All the Earth Will Sing for Joy*

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Ten Cities and Two Thousand Pigs"*

REV. PHILLIPS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 #447:** *Lead On, O King Eternal*

ERNEST W. SHURTLEFF

Lead on, O King eternal,  
The day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest  
Thy tents shall be our home:  
Through days of preparation  
Thy grace has made us strong,  
And now, O King eternal,  
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,  
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper  
The sweet amen of peace;  
For not with swords' loud clashing,  
Nor roll of stirring drums;  
With deeds of love and mercy  
The heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal:  
We follow, not with fears,  
For gladness breaks like morning  
Where'er Thy face appears;  
Thy cross is lifted over us;  
We journey in its light:  
The crown awaits the conquest;  
Lead on, O God of might.

**\*SENDING**

"GOD'S BLESSING BE OURS," RUTH BURGESS

God's blessing be ours:  
a blessing of loving kindness,  
a blessing of hope and courage,  
a blessing of listening and love.  
God's blessing be ours  
always. *Amen.*

**POSTLUDE:** *Go Forth in Triumph*

FRANKLIN RITTER

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **Sunday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Tuesday, January 30<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

### **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> Snow Ski with Scout Troop 9**

Troop 9 invites any Youth and Family to Snow Ski February 4<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto:benes.nc@att.net), (336) 675-9086

### **Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> Scout Sunday**

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

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



## 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

1500 S. Main Street  
Graham, NC 27253

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

336.227.4041

## Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – [chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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