



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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January 22, 2023 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Epiphany



Jim Forest, "Blessing"

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16 (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, *Winter: Resources for November, December and January* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2016); and Ruth Burgess, *Bare Feet and Buttercups: Resources for Ordinary Time* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2008).*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *The Lily of the Valley*

MERCY BARTLETT (TUNE BY L.D. SANKEY)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #466:** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

CHARLES WESLEY

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

O storyteller,
you sit me down
and fill me with tears
and love
and laughter

"STORYTELLER," RUTH BURGESS

Come into my life,
and tell your story
through me.

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom by giving your kingdom to the lowly and pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice and perseverance in striving for peace, that by our words and deeds the world may see the promise of your kingdom, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May the words of your word,
spoken to disciples then as now by your Word,
come alive in us,
that, by your Spirit,
we may truly encounter your Word,
our Lord, Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 1:1-3

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 665

MATTHEW 5:1-20

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1173-1174

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

***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 #66:** *We Three Kings*

JOHN HENRY HOPKINS, JR.

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. **(Refrain)**

Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, we are raising,
Worshipping God Most High. **(Refrain)**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **(Refrain)**

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies. **(Refrain)**

Friends, let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves. Please pray with me.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."
Right!
You said it, Lord,
so it must be true.
But
I'm not feeling very blessed right now.
So help me please.
My self-confidence is at an all-time low;
my faith, once a beacon
by which others found their way
and warmed themselves,
has shrunk to
a wee guttering candle.

My hope,
"the vision" which once inspired me,
has been clouded over
by my mistakes.
And love?
I just see hurt, painfully clearly
in those I love
and in those who love me.

I am spiritually broken, then!
Utterly skint,
on my uppers.
The good I long to do
I get all wrong.
The mistakes I abhor,
I seem to have made.
I've had it!
So,
Like a beggar I cry for mercy.

Is there any hope for me?
After all, Saint Paul found much the same!
So may be there is.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Know that you are forgiven, that you are enough, and that you are loved. **Amen.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *This Little Light of Mine*

NOLAN WILLIAMS, JR.

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!

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
Ev'rywhere 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

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Happy are the Salty"*

REV. PHILLIPS

A LITANY OF HOPE

"A LITANY OF HOPE," SIMON TAYLOR

The trees of wood await spring's re-clothing;
the branches will be green again:

This we affirm: God is faithful and true.

The sun will rise higher in our skies;
its light will be warm upon our faces once more.

This we affirm: God is faithful and true.

The days will grow longer;
light will push back the darkness.

This we affirm: God is faithful and true.

Seeds will germinate and grow;
the flowers will bud and bloom.

This we affirm: God is faithful and true.

The ears of the wheat will form and ripen;
the grass will grow to feed the cattle.

This we affirm: God is faithful and true.

Swallows will return and fill the skies;
birds will fill the land with song.

This we affirm: God is faithful and true.

Friends, may we pray together in hope the prayer our Lord taught us to pray, in the language most familiar to us, saying:

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 #8:** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

GEORG WEISSEL

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

***SENDING**

"MAY GOD SALT THE PATH BEFORE YOU," SIMON TAYLOR

May God bless your winter days with warm sunshine and clear skies,
may God bless your winter nights with shining stars and a bright moon,
may God salt the path before you and light your way,
may God wrap you in his presence and warm you against winter cold.

POSTLUDE: *Sing Praises to the Changing Years*

HUMPHREY TURNER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

January 29th - Brunch Church

It's our first Fifth Sunday of the year. We will celebrate with a Brunch Church service at 11. During the service the Transition Team will be leading us through a series of questions for our time of Holy Conversation.

February 5th - Scout Sunday

Our Scouts from the Pack and Troop will join us in worship.

February 7th – 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.

Invitation to Snow Ski

You are invited to Snow Ski with the Scouts of Troop 9. Lessons provided, Learn to Ski, and have a Great Time. Contact Jeff Benes for more details and to sign up.

Jeff Benes
Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

Scouts Looking for Storage Space

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:
2 camping trailers, 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).
Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, January 22nd – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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

Wednesday, January 25th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 29th - Brunch Sunday & Communion

11:00 – Brunch & Worship in the Fellowship Hall

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

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