



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

January 23, 2022 – 11:00 am

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*



### ***“For God So Loved the World”***

*Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*  
John 3:5-8 (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.*

### **TRINITY CHIMES**

**PRELUDE:** *To God Be the Glory*

WILLIAM DOANE & FANNIE CROSBY/ARR. BY FRED BOCK

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it;  
***the world, and those who live in it.***

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

**Refrain:**

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels, descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **(Refrain)**

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. **(Refrain)**

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of abundant life, your grace is our daily bread. Nourish us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may grow in faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 139:13-18**

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 773

**JOHN 3:1-21**

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1292

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

We come before our God this morning to this moment often known as the confession. Here we sit, recognizing not that we are bad people, or evil sinners, but that we are human. We confess that we are beautifully and wonderfully made very good in your image, and yet we know the ways in which we have caused hurt in ourselves and others. So this morning we come before you, O God, fully who we are, ready to tell the truth about ourselves, trusting that in and through your love, we may be known, and loved, and sent from this place in order to love.

*Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our faults and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our faults.*

### A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The truth about ourselves is this: we are all God's beloved children, in whom God takes great delight. May we live into that reality today, and every day for the rest of our lives.

**\* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE:** *What a Fellowship*

E. A. HOFFMAN

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.

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

**AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES**

**\* A DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY #383:** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

RAY PALMER

My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As Thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to Thee  
Pure warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll.  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.*

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE**

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *God So Loved the World*

Piano Solo

JOHN STAINER-OP. 1986, No. 5/ARR. BY FRED BOCK

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"For God So Loved the World"*

REV. PHILLIPS

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

**\* CLOSING HYMN #376:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

CHARLES WESLEY

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**\* CLOSING RESPONSES**

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving one another as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

***Thanks be to God.***

**\* POSTLUDE:** *Lift High the Cross*

SYDNEY H. NICHOLSON/ARR. BY FRED BOCK

*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*

**The Story Behind "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"**  
**(Text reference for today: John 3:14-15)**

Ray Palmer, a later doctor of theology, and Lowell Mason, a doctor of music, met in Boston in 1830. Mason inquired to Palmer if he had any lyrics that could be inserted for *Spiritual Songs for Social Worship*, a compilation that was being prepared by Mason and Thomas Hastings for publication within a couple years.

Palmer presented Mason his leather book containing his poem, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," originally in six stanzas. The two men walked into a shop so Mason could obtain a transcript of Palmer's words. It wasn't until he arrived home that evening that the forthwith celebrated stanzas were read, and Mason immediately wrote the tune OLIVET, the only melody ever performed with Palmer's poem.

Palmer believed his hymn flourished since it "embodied, in appropriate and simple language that which is most central in all true Christian experience—the act of faith in the divine Redeemer—the entrusting of the individual soul to Him entirely and forever."



# *Our Faith Community @ Work*

**WORSHIP Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Helen Brown and Karen Maxwell)

**WELCOME** to this virtual 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/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.**

**A Note About the Offering:** As we are temporarily worshipping online only during this time, you are invited to make your contribution in one of two ways: mail it in to the church, or use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Tina Patterson and Kim Snyder)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

**Bethany Members**

Linda Abplanalp

Barbara Cousins

Pat Kennedy

Joyce & Norman Mize

Nancy Sutton

Christopher Bagley

Sylvia Donley

Ron Kimrey

Shelvia Russell

Katherine Bayliff

Henry Flythe

Ruby Martin

Mike Sutton

Ida Whitney

**Friends of Bethany**

Carol Brooks

Bill Faucette

Christy Lutterloh

Diane Miller

Peter Slater

Alex Thomas

Deborah & Larry

Janie Holt Clapp

Ben Johnson

Gaynell McCollum

Norma Proctor

John & Ann Sutton

Randy Thompson

Cindy Uzzo

Don Burenhiede

Jack Cook

Grace Johnson

Anne McDaniels

Shannon Russell

Tiffany Tauchren

Teresa Wilborn

Frank Wrenn

**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) - NOT CURRENTLY MEETING DUE TO COVID

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.

**SUPPORT Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Randy Cousins, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for January are **Tina Patterson** and **Helen Brown**.

**Anniversaries & Birthdays**

- Becky & David Eatmon – January 6<sup>th</sup>
- Nancy & Rick Purcell - January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Joyce & Bobby Peele - January 24<sup>th</sup>
  
- Sarah Osborne – January 6<sup>th</sup>
- Joy Saleeby – January 6<sup>th</sup>
- Bill Abplanalp – January 10<sup>th</sup>
- Mike Sutton – January 17<sup>th</sup>
- Ellen Phillips – January 22<sup>nd</sup>
- A.J. Campbell - January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Norman Mize - January 24<sup>th</sup>

**Liturgist**

January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chip Allen
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Brown
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rick Purcell
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	_____
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	_____

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (not meeting)
- 11:00 – Worship (Zoom and Live Stream)

Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> :

- 6:30 – No Choir Practice

Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> - Brunch Church

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (not meeting)
- 11:00 – Worship (Zoom and Live Stream)

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

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### Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

### Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

### Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

### 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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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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