



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

January 29, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*



## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*It's one of the most poetic and well-known texts of the Old Testament. The images of an eagle mounting an air current to take to the heavens, or a runner gathering new strength for a final push are enduring. As our theme passage for our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, we begin our journey this morning exploring the idea of "Growing Stronger" as disciples of Christ.*

**PRELUDE:** *Before Thy Throne We Kneel*

D. MOORE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

*(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

\* **GATHERING SONG:** *Let Us Build A House* (see page 5)

MARTY HAUGEN

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called.

***We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.***

Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

***We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.***

Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

***We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.***

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

***We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.***

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE #368:** *I've Got Peace Like a River*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

God who calls us to be the church in this place and time, we come together to celebrate Your presence among us. In this hour, as we sing and pray and listen, may you awaken in us a hope for the future. May our time together remind us why the church is needed in the world.

***You gather those who are cast aside by a throwaway society, and call them by name; you melt hearts hardened by cynicism with the warmth of your hope; you energize us so we can sprint into the kingdom.***

We walk through life, confident, strong, boasting of all our achievements. But God sees the hurts we have inflicted on others, the weariness in our bones from chasing after bad choices, and all the foolishness we trip over in the busyness of life. Let us come to God, for the One who listens to our faltering words is the One who gives us the Word filled with grace and mercy.

***We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God, even if we were to go from one edge of creation to the next. You speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You explain your hopes to us, and we act as if we don't have a clue as to what is going on. We run as fast, and as far, from you as we can, and wonder why we have no energy to follow Jesus.***

Yet you search for us in all the deserted places we flee to, so you can take us by the hand to show us the way to life with you. You heal our broken hearts so we can offer them to others. You fill us with your strength so we can bind ourselves to Jesus, our Savior, following him to serve all of your children.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Have you not been listening. God never tires out, nor is there is an expiration date on God's forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for service.

***If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! Thanks be to God. Amen.***

\* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

TRADITIONAL

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)*

*I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)*

*Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)*

### \* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

***We are a community of believers called by God to worship, serve, teach, and support.***

We believe in God;

***Who is older than eternity and younger than our next breath; who is beyond describing yet knows us all by name; who inspires faith yet cannot be contained by religion.***

We believe in Jesus Christ, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;

***He came in the body to give worth to every human life. He touched the untouchable, loved the unlovable, forgave the unforgivable and endured slander, persecution and death in order that through suffering love God's kingdom might come on earth. He rose from the grave as living proof that what is laid down in faith will be raised in glory. He ascended to heaven that he might be present at all times to all people.***

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

***Who leads us into truth and freedom, who gives good gifts to all God's children, who inspires research, enables prayer, and wills that human economics and politics should prioritize justice, care of the earth and the healing of the nations.***

We celebrate the potential of the Church,  
***The life in our bodies, the yearning in our souls, the promise of good things in store for those who love the Lord.***  
**Amen.**

## AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

R. LOWRY / ARR. F. BOCK

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

### MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *Thy Word*

AMY GRANT

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.  
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

### THE SPOKEN WORD

Lord, silence any voice but your own.

***That we may hear you speaking to us on this day.***

A Reading from Isaiah 40:21-31

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

***Thanks be to God!***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 880

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *I Wanna Be Ready*

R. POWELL

*I wanna be ready. I wanna be ready.  
I wanna be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.  
My feet stand steady, my feet stand steady,  
My feet stand steady to walk in Jerusalem just like John.  
John said that Jerusalem was foursquare.  
I hope, good Lord, to meet you there.  
If you get there before I do,  
tell all my friends I'm coming too.  
O John, O John, now didn't you say  
that you'd be there on that great day.  
Now some came crippled and some came lame,  
and some came walking in Jesus' name.*

**SERMON: GROWING STRONGER**

REV. JOHNSON

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

\* **HYMN OF PREPARATION #507:** *I Come with Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Gathered round a table is where Jesus so often met people . . .

*. . . gathered round the table of Matthew, the table of Zacchaeus, the table of Simon, the table of Peter, the table of Lazarus and Martha and Mary, the tables of Joanna and Susannah . . .*

. . . gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories, share their laughter.

***And here, we are gathered round a table because this is where Jesus has promised to be for those who want to meet him.***

So accept his invitation and feel welcome at this table. Jesus Christ, who here offers us a foretaste of eternal life, invites you to be his guests.

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise . . . So we gladly celebrate your life, as in concert with the church in heaven and earth we join the song of your unending praise.

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Oh, Holy Jesus, it is not by virtue that we are here . . . In the intimacy of this sacrament, as heaven and earth become one, enable us to know you more deeply and resolve to love, honor and serve you more faithfully in this world, until your comes, and praying as Christ taught us:

***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 and ever. Amen.***

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.***

## LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

\* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (Christ, Be Our Light)* (see page 6)

BERNADETTE FARRELL

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Sing Praises to the Changing Year*

H. TURNER

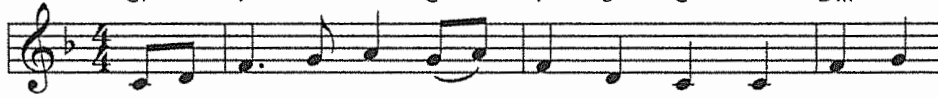
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\* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*

## Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)  
 C7 F C F B<sup>b</sup> C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)  
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell  
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek  
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground  
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)  
 Gm C7 B<sup>b</sup> F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

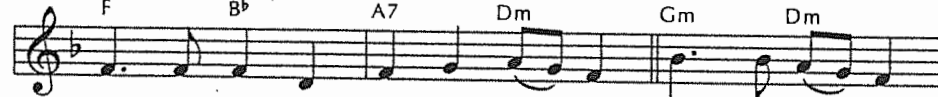
(Em) (A) (D) (G)  
 Gm C F B<sup>b</sup>



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we  
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

## Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> A7 Dm Gm Dm



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

# Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7



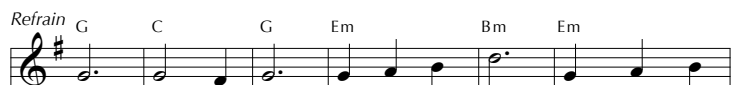
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G



church gath - ered to - day.



## Our Faith Community @ Work

**WORSHIP Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

**WELCOME** to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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.bethanypresbyterian.org](http://www.bethanypresbyterian.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following @bpresbyterian.

**Operating our audio and video systems** this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

**Audio Recordings** of each Sunday's sermons are available through a link on our website, or at [www.buzzsprout.com/9198](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *A Wee Worship Book* (Wild Goose Resource Group)
- Homiletics Online website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))

- Narrative Lectionary website ([www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org))

This morning we mark the **Kickoff of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, **Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher**. The theme for this kickoff Sunday is **Growing Stronger**. Our worship this morning also includes the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Mark your calendars for our other celebration events:

- **Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** – **Rev. Norman Whitney**, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** ([www.davidlamotte.com](http://www.davidlamotte.com))
- **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA)) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **“check in” on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

**To the parents of young children:** Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don’t feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God’s house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me!”
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Family of Dr. Bob James
Joey Leake	Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn
Diane Bullis	Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney
Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore	Rachel Poteat
Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins	Jeremy Harden
Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy	Anne McDaniels
Eleanor Thompson	Harold Baldwin	Mike Sutton
Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo	Ron Chilton
	Gail Sloane (friend of Joy Saleeby)	

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: [www.salempresbytery.org](http://www.salempresbytery.org). On the prayer list for this week are: **St. Andrews, Winston-Salem; Church of the Cross, Greensboro; Virginia Christmas, Associate Chaplain, Wake Forest University**. Please keep these churches in your prayers this week.

**TEACH Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

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.

**Young at Heart Class** (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor’s office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

**Seeker's Class** (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using a study guide that correlates with the preaching text and themes that are used in our worship services.

**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: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for January are **Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell.**

**This Week's Calendar:**

Today:

- **125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION KICKOFF**
- 9:00 – Anniversary Kickoff Breakfast
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 15*

Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

**Session**

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

**bethany presbyterian**

**love learn serve**



**Class of 2017:**

Ron Kimrey  
Karen Maxwell  
Sherrie Moore

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Graham, NC 27215**

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336.227.4041**

**Class of 2018:**

Glenn Patterson  
Nancy Purcell  
Brandon Troxler

**Staff**

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

**Class of 2019:**

A. J. Campbell  
Ron Osborne  
Jean Payne

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